

GRAPHIC DESIGN Expressive Shape Design – Photoshop

- Learn how to use and label layers, create shapes using selection tools, use paint palette, color swatch tool, alter color transparency, edit, alter, copy shapes, apply and copy effects (fx) onto layers, and merge layers.
- Use visual communication to express an intentional mood using simple shapes.

Design Criteria:

Take inspiration from one of your thumbnail studies.

Use at least 3 different shapes, including at least one organic and one geometric.

Use a specific color scheme.

Use repetition of at least one shape.

One shape should extend off each edge of your composition.

Title your piece with a word that you think describes the mood/expression you created.

Directions:

- Open Photoshop
- Go to File>New
- Change the format to 8.5 x 11 and the resolution to 72
- Click on the color swatch on the bottom of your tool palette and select a color you want in your background
- Go to edit>Fill or short cut: (change transparency of layer in the fill palette)
To create a gradient blend select two colors: one in foreground and a different color in the background. Click on the gradient icon (rectangle with blended dark to light) Click, drag, and let go.
- Make a new layer using the new layer icon at the bottom right of your layers palette.
- Use the rectangle marquee tool to create a square or rectangle shape. (change to desired color by selecting a color in your swatches and filling)
Label this layer by double clicking on “Layer 2” and type in: Rectangle
- Make another new layer and create a shape with the elliptical marquee tool. Select and change the color of you circle or ellipse. Title this layer: Circle
- Make another new layer and create an organic shape using the lasso selection tool. Select and change the color of this shape. Create a title for this layer.
- Use the move tool to move your shapes around (you can only move shapes on selected layer- Make sure to pay attention to what layer you are on!)
- Use edit>transform or command T to transform, alter proportions, scale, and rotation of your shapes.
- Select a shape you want to repeat through out your composition. While on the move tool and on desired layer hold Alt and move the mouse over the shape you want to duplicate, you will see a double black and white arrow. Hold the left mouse button and drag and you will make a duplicate of that layer/shape and a new layer will automatically be made. Edit Transform your duplicates to alter size and scale, use move tool to place duplicates in desired location.
- Select a shape, or repeated shape to add a stroke effect (out line) to make it stand out. (experiment with other effects if you want to!)
- Merge your duplicate (copy) layers by clicking on the top layer and holding shift while clicking on the bottom layer. Go to the drop down menu on your layer’s palette and select the ‘merge layers’ option.
- Play around with the order of your layers: Hold left mouse button down to select a layer, hold and move it up or down.
- Play around with the transparencies of different layers. Select the opacity arrow in the layer’s palette and move the slider to the right slowly.

GRAPHIC DESIGN *Saving Directions*