

The Buonarroti Carrera Method...

Creating Line Art with Color

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This tutorial appeared in the December 2004 issue of Photo Electronic Imaging (PEI) Magazine. The author was wedding photographer Bob Coates of Sedona, AZ. Buonarroti was Michelangelo's last name and Carrera is a type of Italian marble.

I have added some of my notes for some clarification.

Since this process uses the History Brush it is very important to make all of your corrections to your original image prior to starting this technique. Also, be sure to save and close your corrected image first. Reopen the image and begin the process.

In my workflow on electronic images I always create a copy of my original image, close the original and work on the copy, in case of any unforeseen errors and the image is ruined or lost, I have the original to fall back on.

- Open corrected image > click on Image in the Toolbar and scroll down to Duplicate. Dialog box will open naming your image Copy. Create a new name or click OK. Close original image.
- Choose Filter > Artistic > Colored Pencil. Adjust the settings until you're satisfied with the results. This step will require adjustment of the settings to suit.
- Desaturate the image. Click Image > Adjustments > Desaturate
Keyboard Shortcut (Shift + Ctrl + U)
- Adjust Brightness/Contrast. Click on Image > Adjustments > Brightness/Contrast to suit and click OK.
- Make a selection with the Rectangular Marquee about ½ inch away from the border.
- Feather the selection about 25 pixels. Click Select > Feather. A dialog box will open; enter 25 in Feather Selection window. Click OK.
Note: The amount of feathering will be proportional to the file size. A larger file will require more feathering.
- Now Select > Inverse. Click Edit > Clear. This operation will clear any image data around the perimeter of your image and give you a soft edge.
- Deselect (Ctrl+D). This removes marching ants. Select > Deselect.
- Apply Unsharp Mask. Click on Filter > Sharpen > Unsharp Mask. Unsharp Mask dialog box opens, adjust amount to about 110%, Radius to suit (about 3 pixels) and Threshold set at 0% and click OK.
- Copy the Layer. Click Ctrl J. Or. Click on Layer and drag to Create a New Layer at the bottom of the Layers palette.
- Choose History Brush from the Tools palette and select a medium size Chalk style brush.

This next step can be a little tricky. I had trouble with it a first. Go to the History Palette and click on the left side of the original image. This image should be in color. This sets the source of the History brush.

- Click on the Background Layer in your Layers palette. Set your Brush Opacity to 10% and begin painting back the color in the image. Using diagonal overlapping strokes works best. Slowly build up the color intensity to suit. The most important areas should be back to 100%. You can stop where you like. You're the artist.
- If you original image had skin tones you would want to bring those areas back to 100%
- If I'm satisfied with the results I will flatten the image.
- As an added step you can also create a Hue/Saturation Adjustment Layer. Click on Layer > New Adjustment Layer > Hue/Saturation. Hue/Saturation dialog box will appear and click OK. This will open the Hue/Saturation window where you will be able to modify the Hue, Saturation & Lightness of the Master color or any selected color (Red, Green, Blue, Yellow & etc.)
- I also may choose to make a selection of the image using the marquee tool and copy to a new layer. By adding a new layer I can add a Layer Style such as a Drop Shadow.
- Finally, I may select the entire image and add a color stroke to accent the border.

You're done!

A special thanks to Bob Coates, wedding photographer of Sedona, Arizona, for allowing me to present this technique.

You can find Bob's website at: www.bcweddingphoto.com/

Bob also wishes to acknowledge Russell Beach of Cottonwood, AZ who gave him the start for doing BCE and Patrick McCarty of Scottsdale, AZ for coining the name.