Paper Animation Stacking Steps (#2)

Use Photoshop to create your frame-by-frame animation, change the speed of frames, and add color.

1. Open Photoshop and go to FILE, SCRIPTS, LOAD FILES INTO STACK.

2. Browse for your Z:"FRAMES" folder, select all of the images that you want to animate by dragging a box around the files or holding down CTRL while clicking on each one.

3. Another window will open called the "Load Layers" window. Simply Click OK.

4. Once images are imported as LAYERS, go to WINDOW, ANIMATION. The ANIMATION panel will open on the bottom of the screen. You should see one frame in that panel. If you see a green bar instead, click on the bottom right button of that panel to change the view to "FRAMES".

5. In the ANIMATION panel click on top right drop down menu options tab.

6. Select "MAKE FRAMES FROM LAYERS." All of your frames should appear there.

7. Click PLAY in the animation palette. After 10 seconds it will play at the fastest possible speed. Notice that the first frame says"10 sec". You can adjust the timing of each frame there by clicking on that little down arrow. You will probably want to adjust the timing of individual frames at some point. Change frame one to a faster timing now.

   You will probably realize that some of your frames need slight positioning adjustments. We will get to that, but for now we'll start adding color and subtracting the backgrounds.

   This is where things quickly can get tricky. Pay close attention to the next few steps.
   Your FRAMES are on the bottom. Your LAYERS are on the right side.
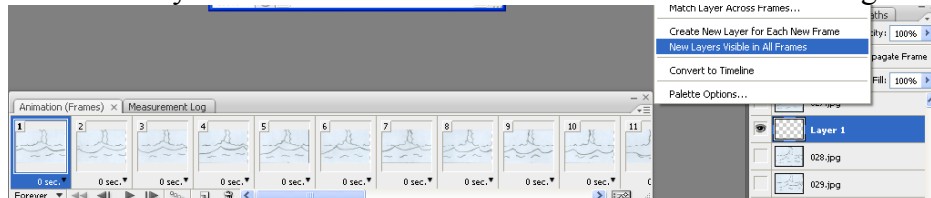   For each frame you can select and show any amount of layers to see in your animation.

To make adjustments to any frame you must have FRAME & LAYER selected.

8. Make a new bottom layer by going to the menubar and selecting LAYER, NEW, LAYER, OK.

9. Notice a new layer in your LAYER panel. It has an EYE icon on it. That means that it is visible on the FRAME that you have selected in your ANIMATION panel.

10. Click that new LAYER and drag it down to the bottom of all your LAYERS. It should be under all the other layers now. It is a checkerboard meaning that it is 100% transparent.

11. Click on the first color box in your TOOLBAR. Change the color to black.

12. Click on your PAINTBUCKET tool in the TOOLBAR which is under the eraser behind the GRADIENT tool (you need to hold down the gradient tool to see under it).

13. Click on your canvas. It should of painted that bottom layer black. This is a temporary layer.

14. Now, click on the LAYER above the bottom one which has an EYE icon too.

Remember that you must have FRAME & LAYER selected.
In order to play the frames correctly make sure the EYE is showing on each LAYER.

*Make sure "New Layers Visible In ALL Frames" is not selected if drawing on frames.

15. Make sure you are on the first FRAME. It's time to delete the background of your FRAMES.

16. Go to the MAGIC WAND (4th) tool in the TOOLBAR. You may need to hold down the mouse button on top of another tool to find it.

17. Click on the background of your CANVAS.

18. The MAGIC WAND should of selected an area. Those moving dashed lines are called, "running ants". That's the area that you can make modifications too. You probably need to select more.

19. Go to the "TOLERANCE" options up top. Type in a larger number (0-250) if you need to select more area or a smaller number if you need to select less area.

20. Click again on your CANVAS on the area you want to delete. Change the number again if necessary. Another way to select more area is holding down the SHIFT key while clicking on more areas of your canvas. CTRL+A is SELECT ALL which may help you start again.

21. Press the DELETE button on your keyboard. The area should be gone and you will see black.

Continue this process for each FRAME & LAYER to illuminate the areas you don't want.

*You may add color to any part of your subject(s) if you want now.

*You can explore the program and use any tool you like to make enhancements of any kind.

*You may change the background to something else if you like at this point.

*You can add an image from the Internet if you legally get it from a Creative Commons site.

*Use the PAINTBUCKET to color in any shape with one click

After deleting all the backgrounds and coloring everything you may proceed to the next handout.