CO 4423: Advanced Photographic Communication
Color and Luminance Range Masking in Adobe Camera Raw
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Assignment: Photo Editing Demonstration

The purpose of this tutorial is to give you a brief overview of how to use the new color and luminance range masking tools within Adobe Camera Raw. Two demonstrations will be shown using an example of each technique. The luminance range masking tool is used in the lightening and darkening of tones within a desired area of the image. The color range masking tool is used in the saturation and editing of specific colors or a range of colors within a certain area of the image.

Use "Bridge" to preview your files and then open your image in "Camera Raw." Use this to make all of your non-destructive adjustments before you begin with range masking.

Luminance Range Masking:

- Select graduated filter in the above toolbar

- Set desired adjustment using the sliders on the right side of the screen

- Click within the target area of the image and drag

- Scroll down to range masking and select luminance

- Drag luminance sliders to adjust tones within the image

- Drag smoothness slider to adjust transition

- Save image

Color Range Masking:

- Select adjustment brush

- Set saturation slider to -100

- Select part of image that is the most different

- Begin painting over target area

- Scroll down to range and select range

- Use color range selector (eyedropper tool) to select colors within the image

- Adjust color range slider

- Readjust saturation slider and any other you deem necessary

- Save image

Clarity on Adjustments:

Graduated Filter provides variations in light transmission across an image area; can be used to darken an over-exposed sky to create a more neutral image

Luminance Range Slider works similar to the way you use a histogram. If you want to brighten the darker tones in the image, slide the most-left point towards the middle. If you want to darken the bright tones in the image, slide the most-right point towards the middle.

Smoothness Slider adjusts the transition of tones within the luminance range mask; sliding towards the left creates a more abrupt transition whereas the right makes for a smoother one.

Color Range Slider adjusts the mask to include more similar or less similar sample colors.