Dipping into Digital Art
A beginner's journey
by Christy Laudig
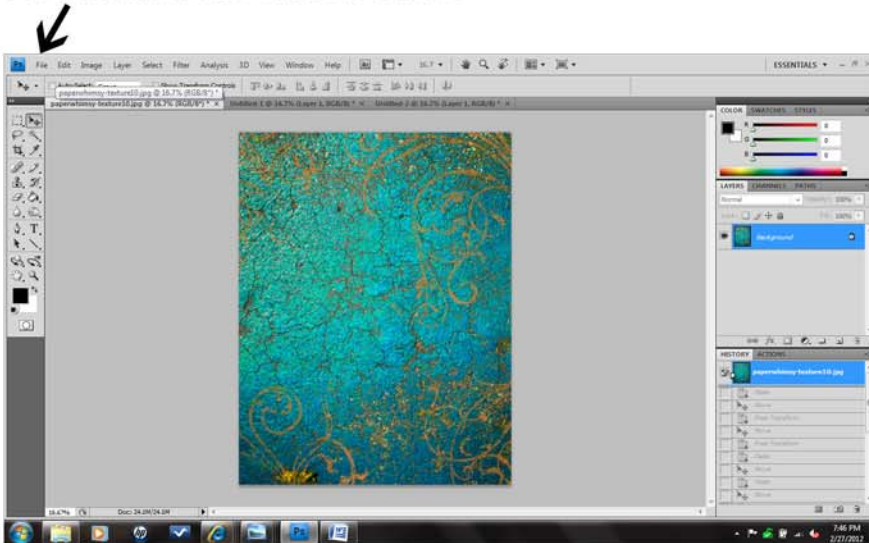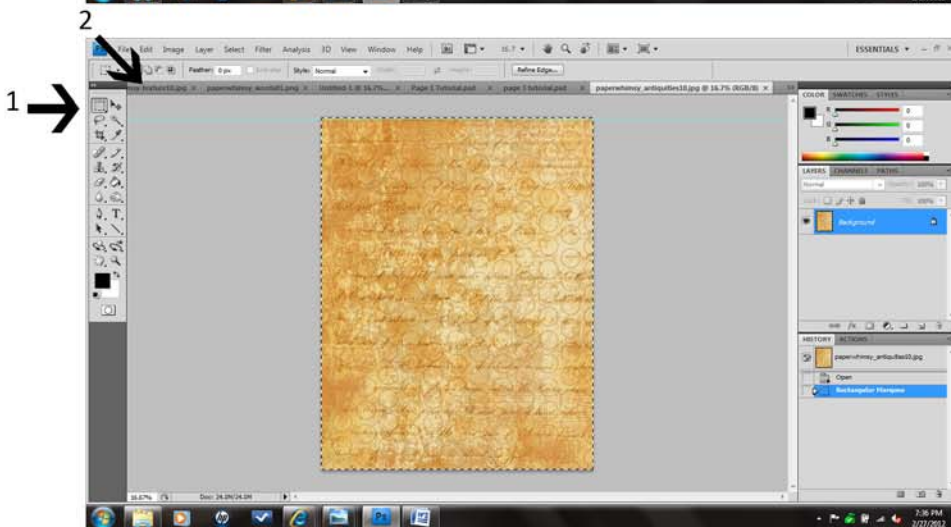
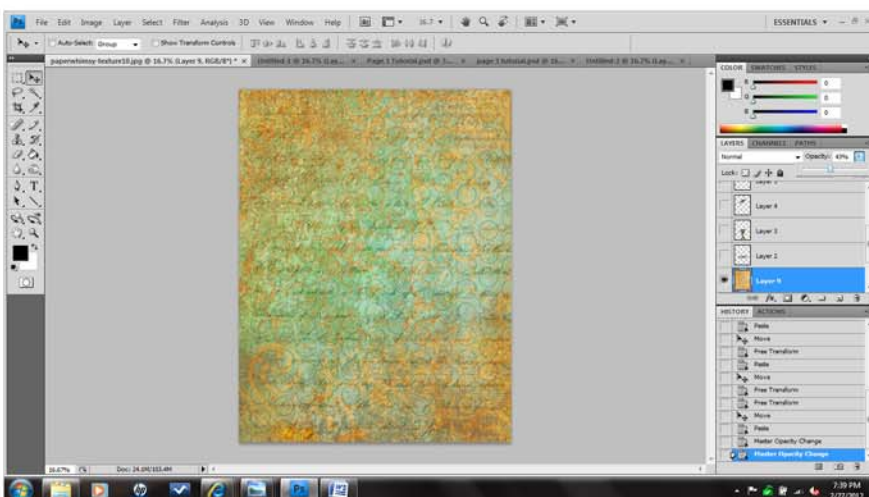# Digital Image Tutorial
Using Photoshop (my version CS4)

After launching Photoshop, you wil click on FILE and hit the OPEN button. Once you select the folder where your images are located, double click on your background choice. It will open here in Photoshop. I have used PAPERWHIMSY TEXTURE 10.JPG here.
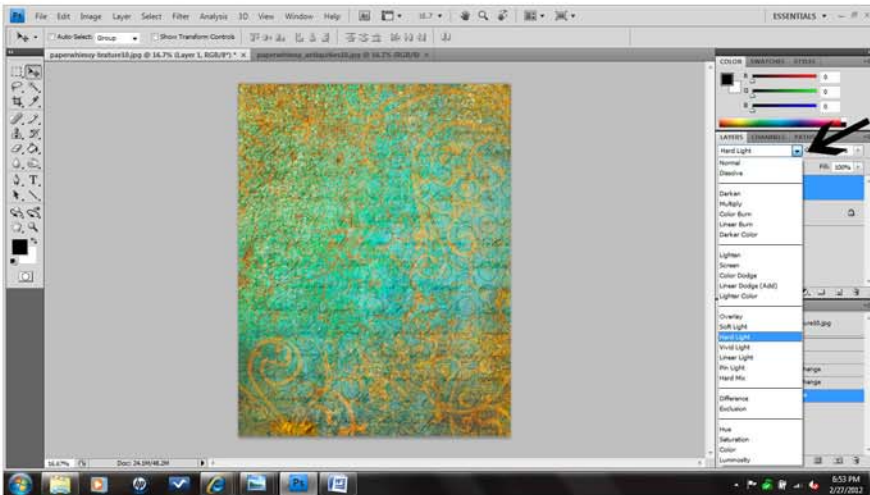

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1 →

You will now open your second layer using the same process as above. When that image opens, you will use your Rectangular Marquee Tool (1)located at the arrow and starting at the upper corner of the image, click and drag over the whole image to the bottom lower right. Let go and then click on the Ctrl key and while holding down, type C. This is a short-cut for COPY. You will then loook on the bar just above the images for your PW Texture 10 image (2) and click on it. Once back to the original layer you will hit the Ctrl key and then type V. This is the short-cut for PASTE. Layer 2 is now on top of layer 1, but you only see Layer 2.
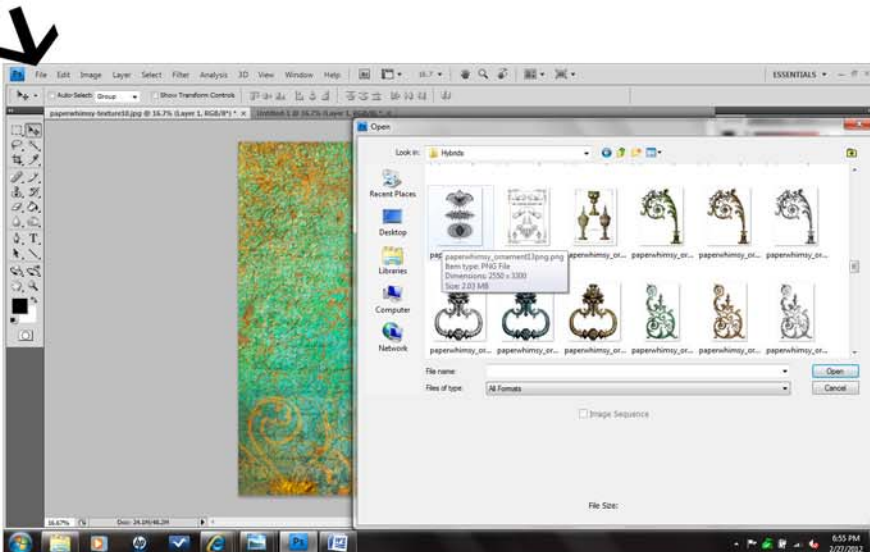
**For clarification, when I say I opened my second layer, I'm refering to my second image, which will become the second layer once I apply it to the first image.

Your next step is to change the opacity so that you can see layer 1 through layer 2. Where the arrow is located you will see opacity. Use the drop down box and slide the bar back and forth to get the opacity you'd like. My image is somewhere in the 42% range.
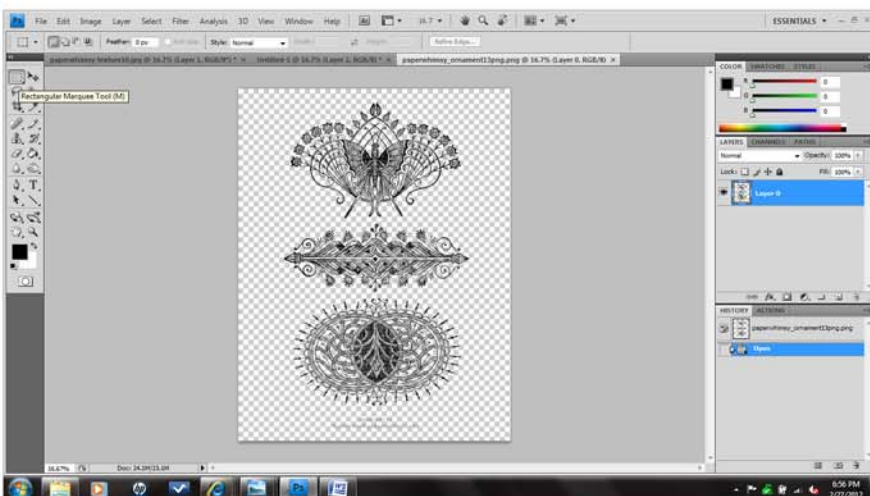
Next to OPACITY is another drop down box that says NORMAL. Click on the drop down and play around with enhancements to your image. I used HARD LIGHT here on this image. I wanted the turquoise to pop through a little more.

You're ready to ad your next layer. Again, click on the File button, click OPEN and you're going to your selected folder and pick your image. Here I have chosen image PAPERWHIMSY ORNAMENT13PNG. Double click and it will open it in a new layer.
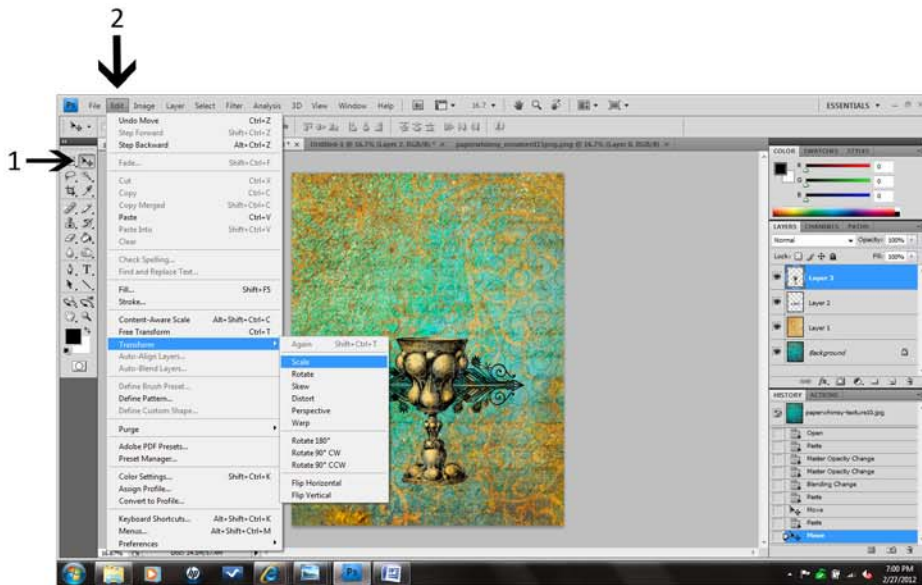
**Again, when opening a new image, it opens as a new file frst, and then once it's added to the growing collage it's a layer.

Here is your layer opened up. Use the Rectangular Marque Tool and select your image by clicking & dragging. Then use Ctrl-C to copy. Click on your original layer and click Ctrl-V to paste onto your original image.
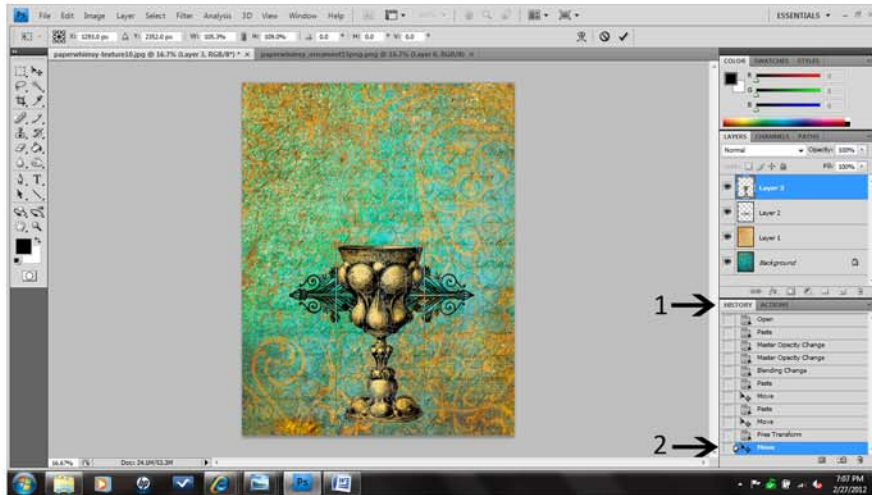
You are ready for your next image. Here I am using PAPER-WHIMSY ORNAMENT 15PNG. Open another image, select with your Rectagular tool, Ctrl-C to copy and then Ctrl-V to paste on your original image.
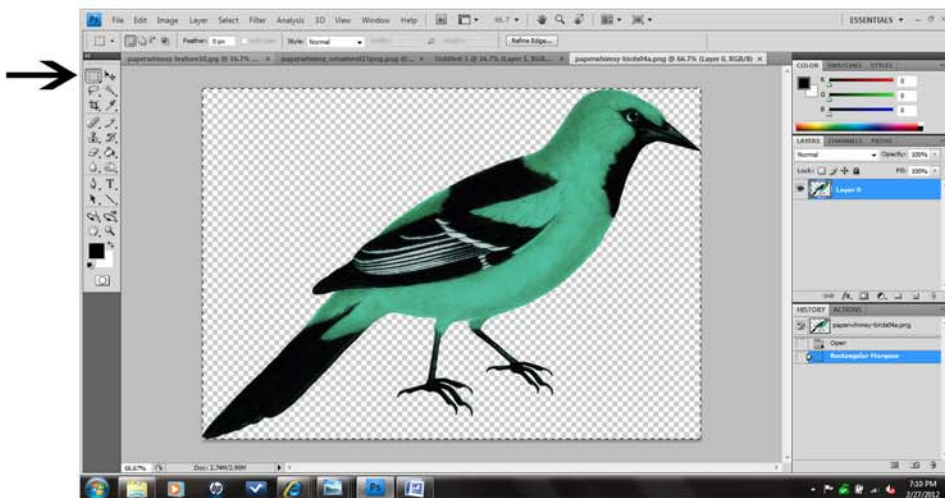

Once you have pasted this image which will be Layer 3, you may wish to move your images around and or resize them. To move an image around or resize, make sure you have clicked on that layer. When finished with that layer, move to the next. Just make sure you're on your last layer before you move forward. To move the image around click on the arrow tool (1) and then hover over image and click & drag.

To resize the image, click on EDIT, slide down to TRANSFORM and then over to SCALE. A box will show up around your image and you can grab a corner and drag it to the size you'd like. Click on (1) again, and then click on APPLY.
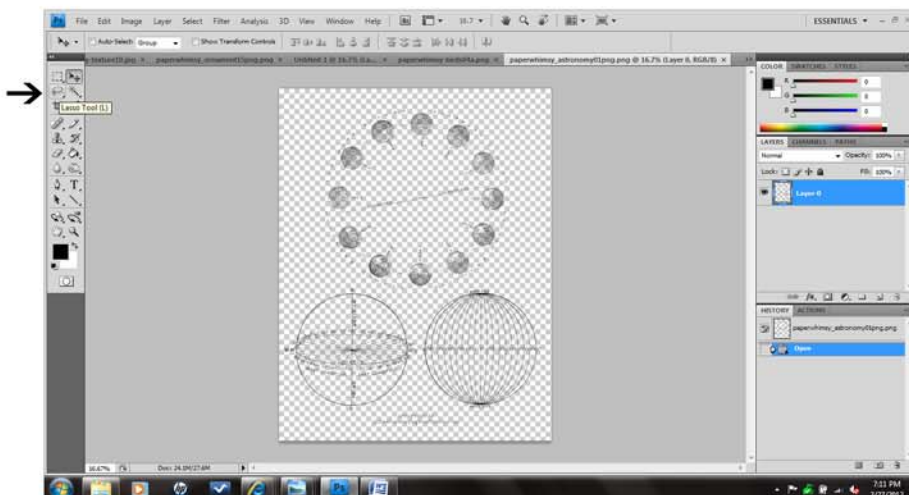
**Short-cut for TRANSFORM is CTRL-T.

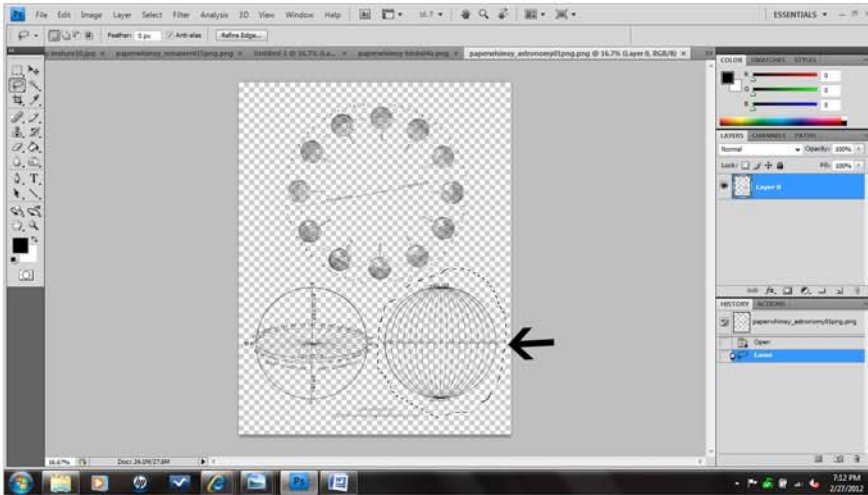If you look at the (1) HISTORY, you will see that you are currently (2)moving the planter around.

Time to open your next two images. You wil then use the Rectangular Marquee to select the bird and copy & paste it to your main creation. Even though it looks large here, it will size to a more reasonalbe size when you paste it. You wil then also be resizing it to fit into your cage.

This is image PAPERWHIMSY-BIRD04a.PNG

You're ready for your next file/image. Here you will use a different tool to select your object. You will click on the LASSO TOOL. Click and drag carefully around the image you'd like, making sure not to cut into your image or another that is close by. Make sure that your two ends meet up when encircling the image. You'll know you've done it right, because the dotted line will "dance". Type CTRL-C to copy and then paste onto your main image.
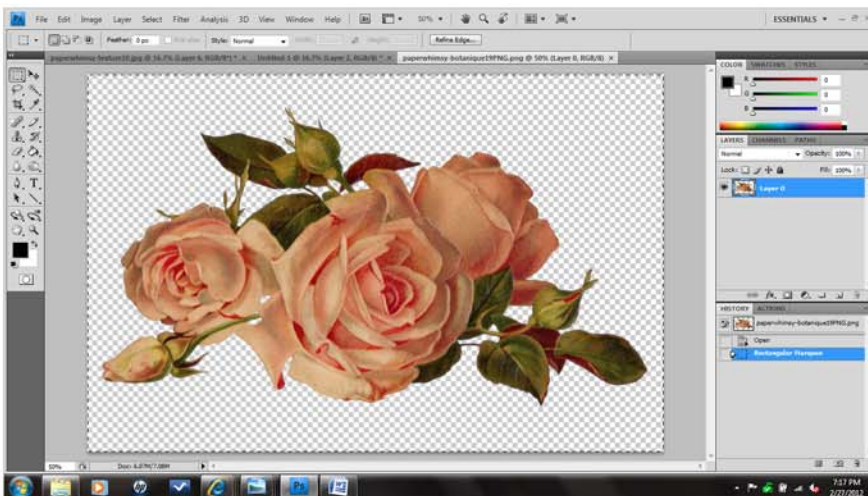
Here you see the LASSO TOOL in use.

This is image PAPERWHIMSY_ASTRONOMY01 PNG

Here you have pasted both your bird (bird first) and then the cage. Because you want the cage on top of the bird, that is the order you'll want (for this beginner version). Again, if you're on the bird layer you can use the MOVE TOOL to move the bird around. To move the cage, clock on the cage layer.
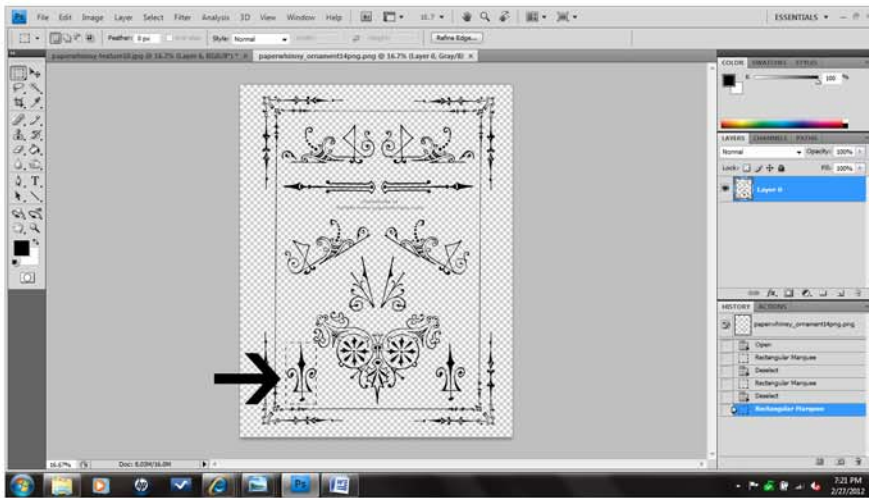
Layers can be renamed, but I don't do this yet. :)

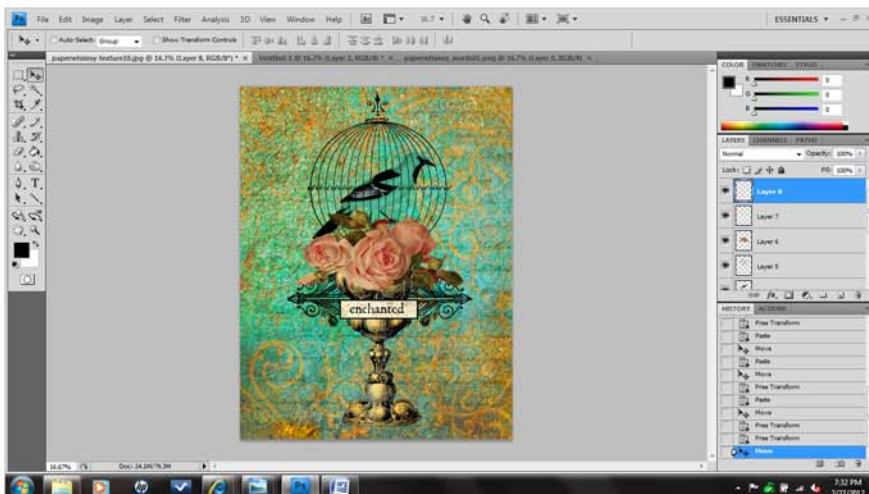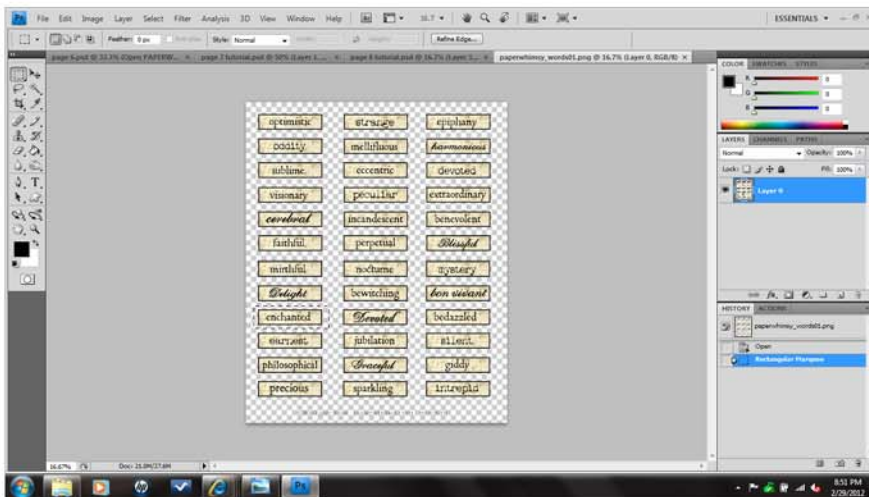Open PAPERWHIMSY-BOTANIQUE 19PNG AND COPY & PASTE IT ONTO YOUR CREATION.

After pasting, you will need to resize & move your image around. You may need to move all parts around to be able to add other objects.
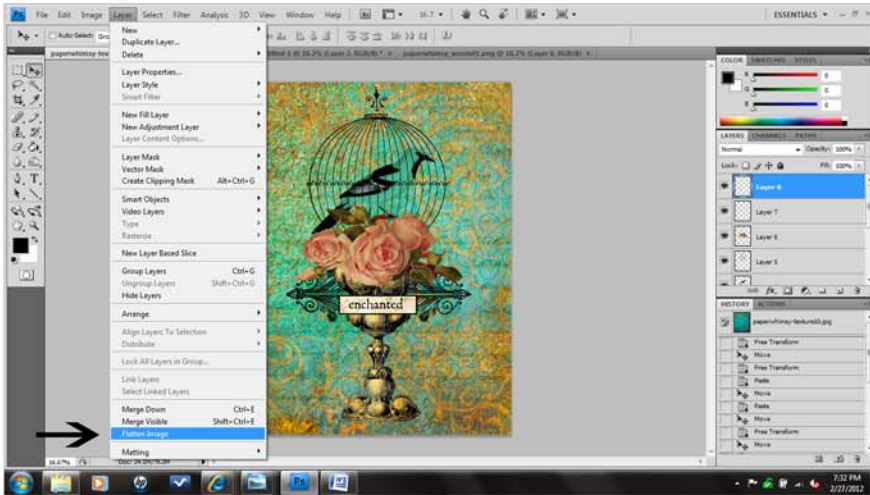
Now you will copy & paste your last two images after opening the files.

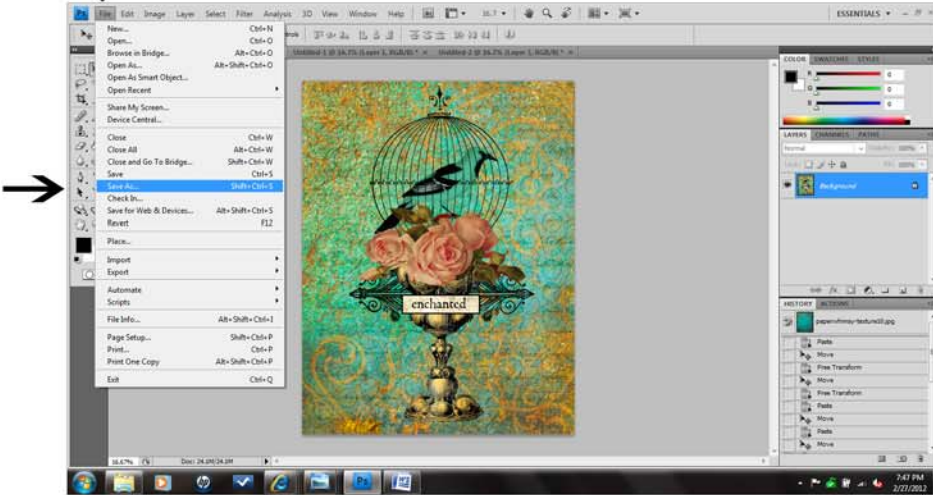The two files I used next are PAPERWHIMSY_ORNAMENT14.PNG & PAPERWHIMSY_WORDS01.PNG

Mostly, everything is in its place at this point. You might wish to move things a tad here & there. Adjust as you'd like.
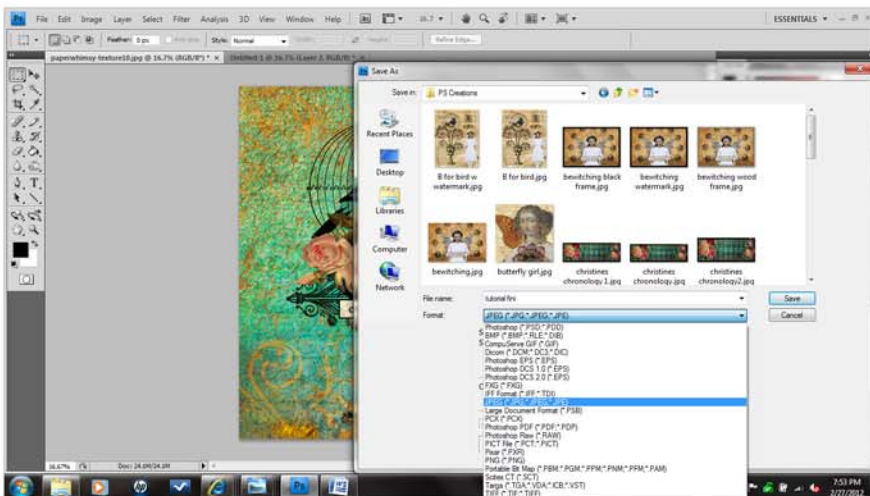
When you are completely finished with your creations and you do not wish to make any other changes, you will flatten all of the layers into one. You can't go back, so make sure you're happy with what you've got.

Click on LAYER and scroll down to FLATTEN LAYER. Click this.

Now you're ready to save your image.

Click on FILE and the scroll down to SAVE AS. Click this.

Pick the folder you wish to save your image in and click on jpg. Also give your creation a name.

I hope that you've learned a few new skills and have enjoyed creating along with me.