<u>TRIPTYCH NOTES</u>

<u>Example No. 1 - drawing custom windows using a brush</u>

1. Start with opening your 3 photos, making sure they are all the same ratio (just for the sake of uniformity) - I use 2:3 usually.

2. If you know you are 100% happy with the crop, you can resize them all to exactly the same pixel size first.

3. Open the first photo which will be on the left hand side

4. Now you want to make your document big enough to fit all 3 photos, so click:

   - Image - Canvas Size
   - Change the unit of measurement to percent - leave the height at 100% and set the width to 300%
   - Set your anchor point to the left and click ok to add blank canvas to the right

5. Go to the next image you want to place in your triptych. Select all [ctrl+A] and copy [ctrl+C]. Now go back to your original image with the extra blank canvas and paste [ctrl+V].

6. Go to the third image and repeat the above steps.

7. Use the move tool [V] to position them and use free transform [ctrl+T] to resize if necessary. Remember to hold down the "shift" key to maintain proportions.

8. You should now have three separate layers in your layers palette. Make sure you have the top layer selected (the active layer will be highlighted in blue)

9. From the menu at the bottom of the layers palette, click on the half white/half black circle [create a new fill or adjustment layer] and select a solid colour fill layer - can be any colour that is complimentary to your images.

10. Change opacity to about 60% (just for the purpose of being able to see your image)

11. Click in the mask to make sure that is selected (a small outline will appear around the mask)

12. Select the brush tool [B] - I like to use a different type of brush from normal round brush - you can choose a different brush type from the dropdown menu at the top of the page. You can append other brushes to the standard brush sets by clicking the right arrow at the top right of the dropdown menu mentioned above.

13. Now you have you brush and you have already selected the mask - you simply paint black over each of your three photos that you want to reveal.

14. Set the layer opacity back up to 100%.

15. You may go back and change the surrounding colour at any time by double clicking in the solid colour thumbnail and choosing a different colour. You may also sample a colour from one of your photos by clicking in your image (after you have double clicked the solid colour thumbnail). You will see your cursor changes from a circle to an eye dropper icon.

<u>Example No. 2 - pasting and aligning your images on a new document</u>

1. Create a new document by clicking:  file - new - 1920x1080px (this is the best resolution our new projector can do).

2. We are going to create gridlines here, to make sure our images are all lined up perfectly.

3. Decide what size border you would like around the outside of your images, I used a 100px border - and follow the steps below to draw your gridlines.

4. Click:  view - new guide - vertical - 100px (make sure you type in "px" too).  Do the same again for 1820px (100px in from the other end of your image).

5. Click:  view - new guide - horizontal - 100px.  Do the same again for 980px (100px from the bottom of your image).

6. Open your three photos and copy and paste them into your new document (the same as step 5 from example no. 1).

7. You can either resize your three images to the exact pixel size (in this example 880px high) before you copy and paste them in, or you can use the free transform tool [ctrl+T] to resize them once you have moved them.

8. Make sure you have "snap to guides" ticked.  Click:   view - snap to - guides.  Now we are going to align your three images properly.

9. Make sure the two end photos are aligned to the left and right vertical grid lines respectively.

10. If you haven't already, select the move tool [V].

11. Click on the centre photo in your layers palette and while holding down the ctrl key, click the background layer.  Two of your layers should now be highlighted in blue.

12. From the menu along the top of your screen, click the icon to align horizontal centres (if you hover your mouse over each of them it will tell you what they all are).

13. Now select your three photos from the layers palette, either by holding the shift key down and selecting the first and last (assuming those layers are all next to each other), or by selecting the first image in your layers palette and then holding the ctrl key down and selecting the other two layers.  Now three of your layers should be highlighted in blue and you can click the icon to align top edges and then align bottom edges.  Assuming none of your three photos moved - they are now perfectly aligned.

14. You can now add some effects such as stroke or drop shadow.  Select one of your three images in the layers palette and click the little "fx" icon in the menu below the layers.  You will see stroke and drop shadow here.  Play with the colours and sizes etc until it suits you.

15. Once you're happy with that, you can hold down the "alt" key and click the word "Effects" from that layer and drag it to each of your other two photo layers.

<u>Example No. 3 - separating one image into three segments (best suits landscapes)</u>

1.  Open your image, taking note of the pixel size.

2.  Decide what size border you would like (I used 100px) and draw gridlines all around your image as in steps 4 and 5 of example no. 2.

3.  Assuming you want to have a separation of about 50px between each photo, divide the remaining area by 3 to determine grids (the remaining area should be your image width, minus 300 pixels - 100px for each end and 2 x 50px dividers).

4.  Now you know exactly where to draw your other gridlines, follow steps 4 and 5 again from example no. 2 and draw in the four remaining vertical gridlines using the pixel width of each segment calculated in step 3 and the 50px dividers.

5.  Once you have all your gridlines, you can do a solid fill layer as described in step 9 of example no. 1 and click in the mask so that it now selected.

6.  Using the rectangular marquee tool, select each of the three large rectangles and fill them with black - and this will reveal your image underneath.