GRAPHICS 9
POLYSCAPES

Polyscapes are really cool abstract/geometric/almost science-fiction images that are made by combining and manipulating landscape and city scape images in Photoshop.
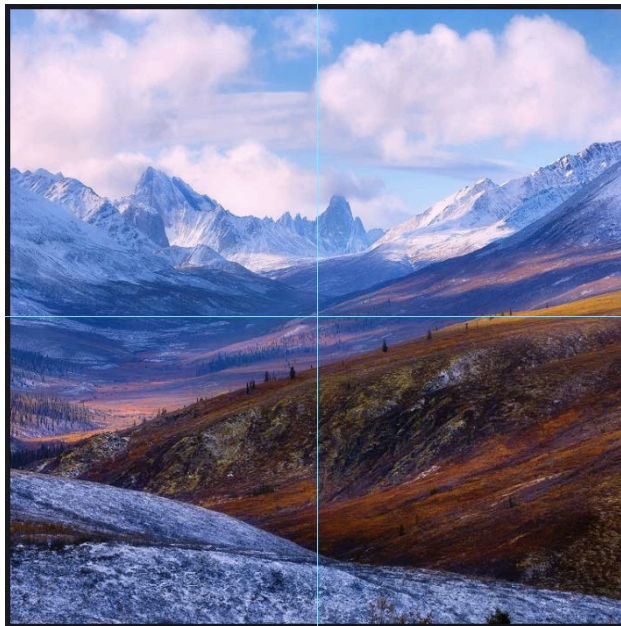
Check out the Polyscape slideshow here. Aren't they cool?!

You can start by finding interesting images to work with the internet (or our National Geography collection). If you are finding images from Google, remember to set the image size to large before saving. I recommend one landscape and one city-scape or sky-scape but it's really up to you.
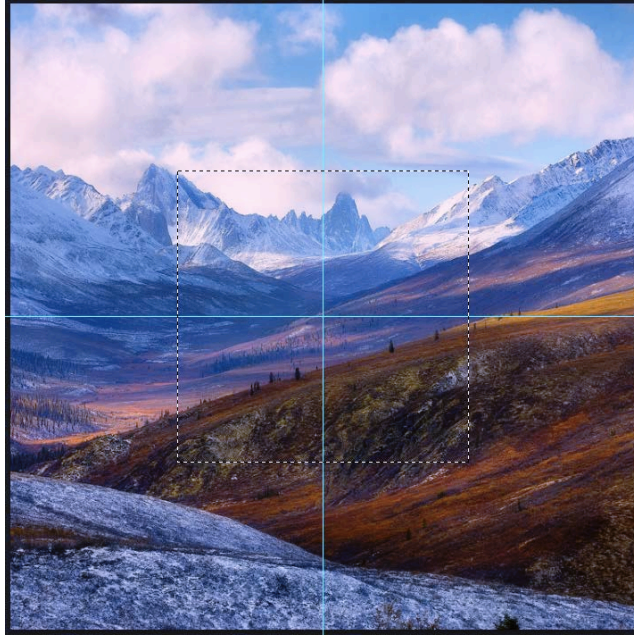
Download the full size image and open them in Photoshop.

Resize the image to 5" x 5" in 300 dpi and save them to your Onedrive. Label them something descriptive.

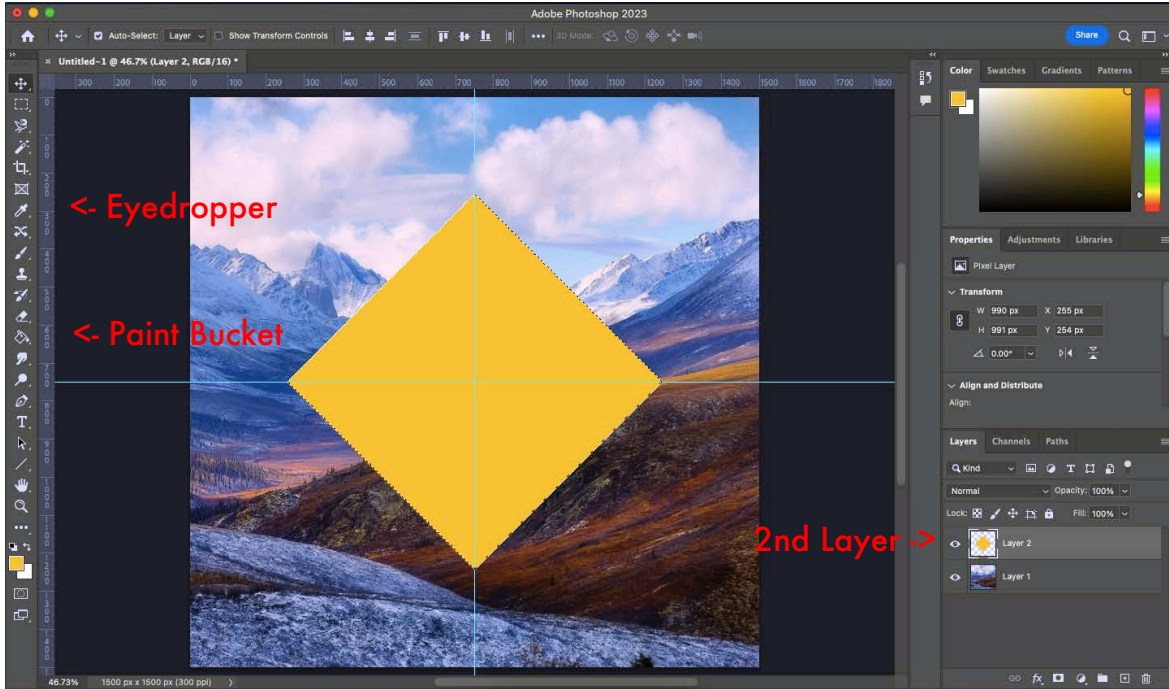*Step1: Pull out two rulers to the middle vertically and horizontally. Then create a new layer.*

Step 2: On your new layer, hold both "Option" and "Shift" while dragging our your rectangular marquee tool from the centre of your guides. This will give a perfect square marquee selection right in the middle of your image.
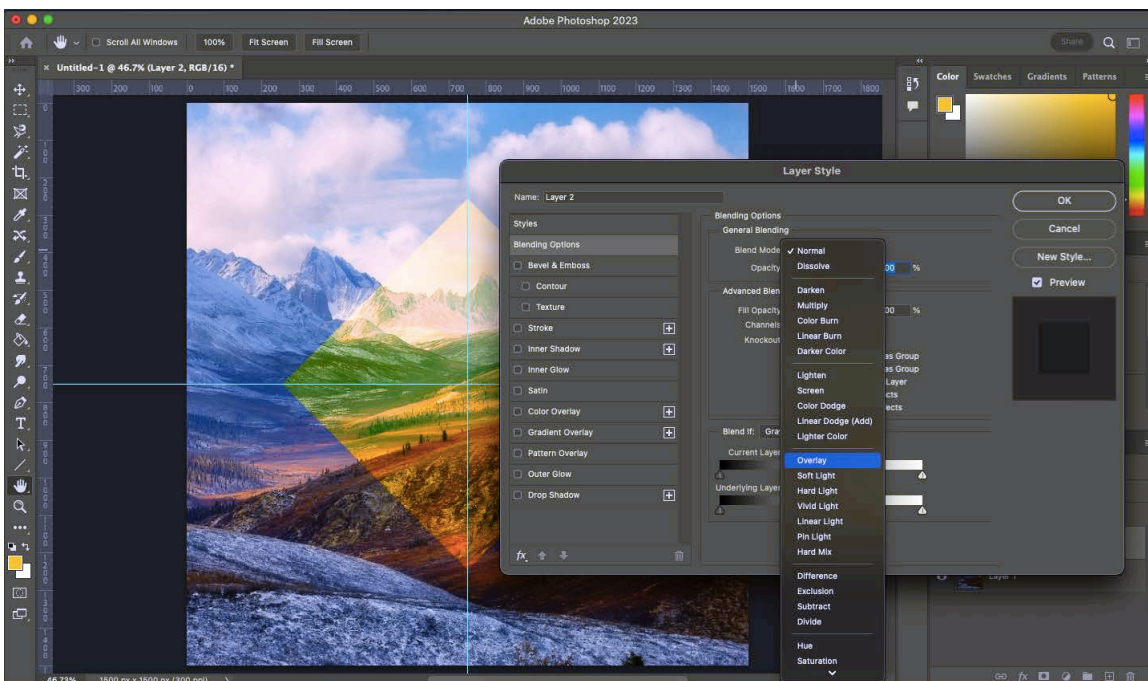

Step 3: Move your cursor over your square marquee selection, right click and select "transform selection" from the drop down that appears. Drag your cursor while holding "Shift" to just outside one of the corners of the selection box and rotate the square 45 degrees so that it now a diamond shape. Press return.
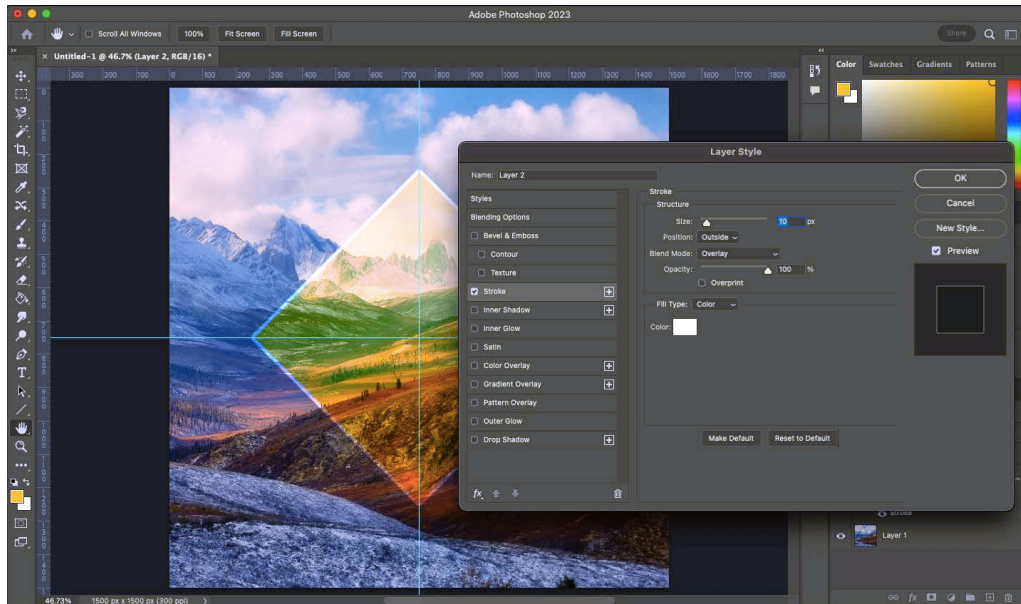
Step 4: Select a colour from your image using the Eyedropper Tool. Use your Paint Bucket tool to apply your chosen colour to the diamond shape. Press Command D to deselect.
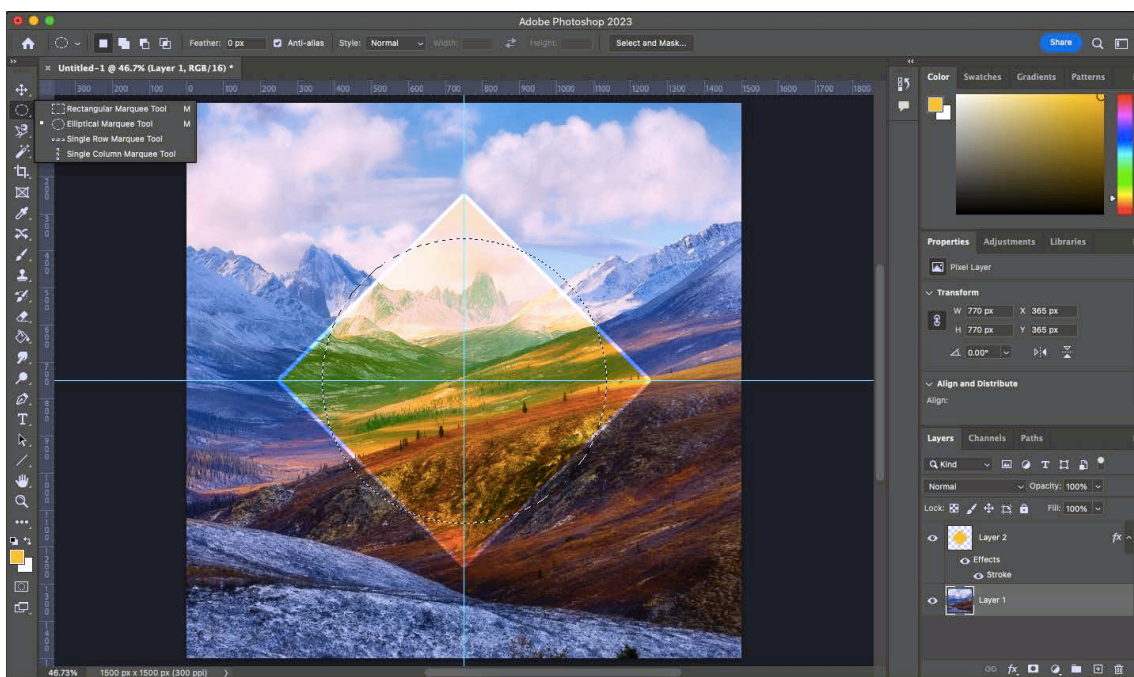

Step 5: Double click on the diamond (top) layer in the layer palette. Change the blend mode from normal to Overlay. Then click on the stroke option on the sidebar to adjust the stroke around your diamond shape.
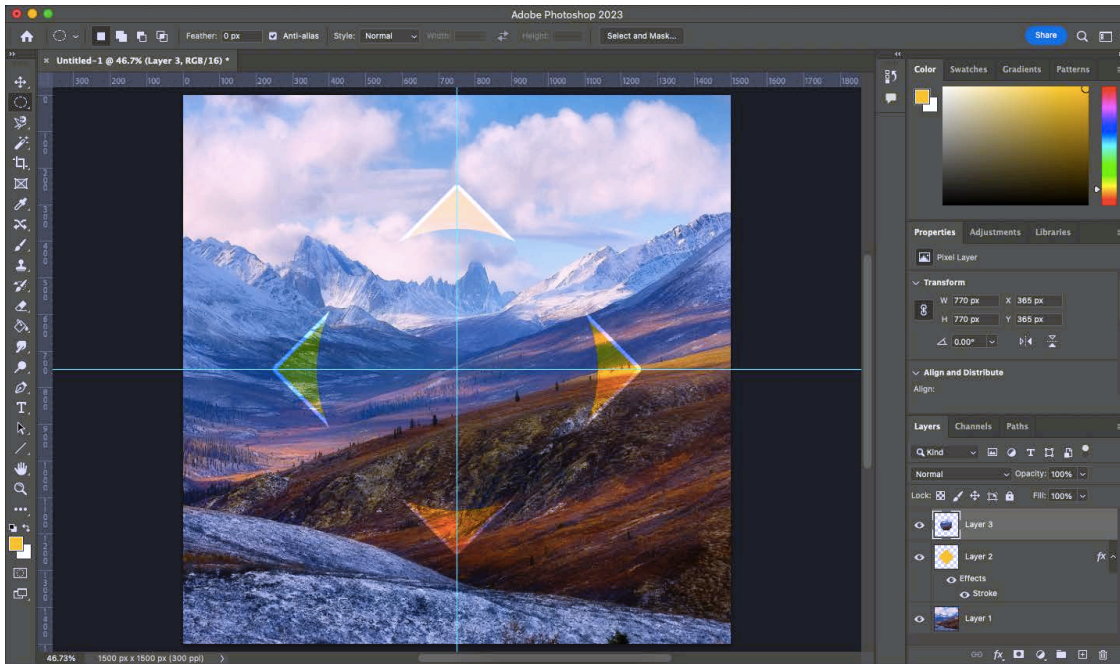
Adjust the stroke size to 10 (or size of your choice) pixels, position to "Outside", and any color you of your desire.
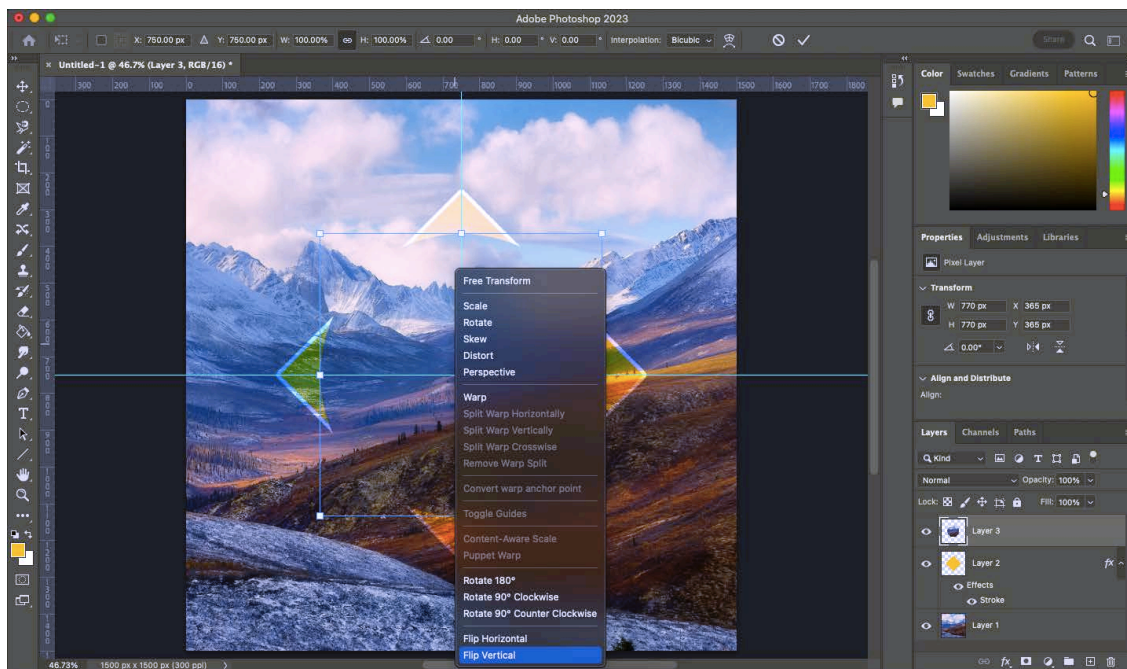

Step 6: Select your original image layer. Now select the elliptical marquee tool (in the drop-down attached to the rectangular marquee tool) and draw a circle from the center, holding down the Option and Shift keys, that is slightly bigger than your diamond shape.
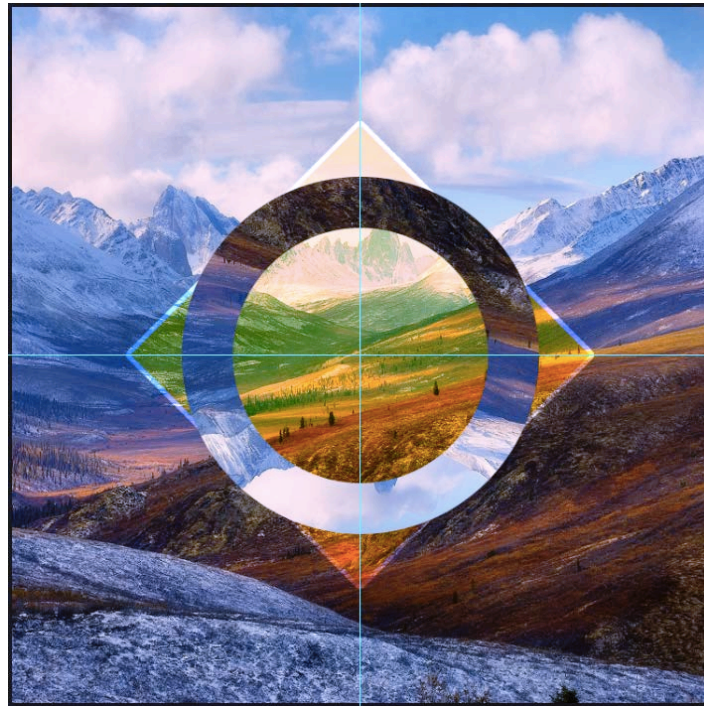
Step 7: Press Command C to copy the image, then paste the image with Command V. Now drag the new layer to the top.

Step 8: Press Command T. Right click and select "flip vertical" from the drop down that appears. Press return.
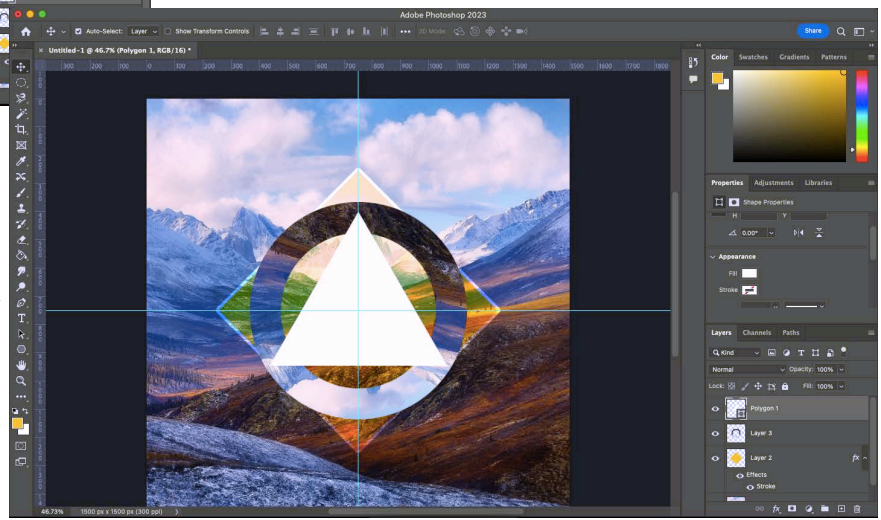
Step 9: Create another circle using the Elliptical Marquee tool that is smaller than the current circle, and press delete.

Step 10: Create a new layer. Then choose the Polygon tool (in the drop down of the rectangle tool) and set the number of sides to three in the top tool bar.
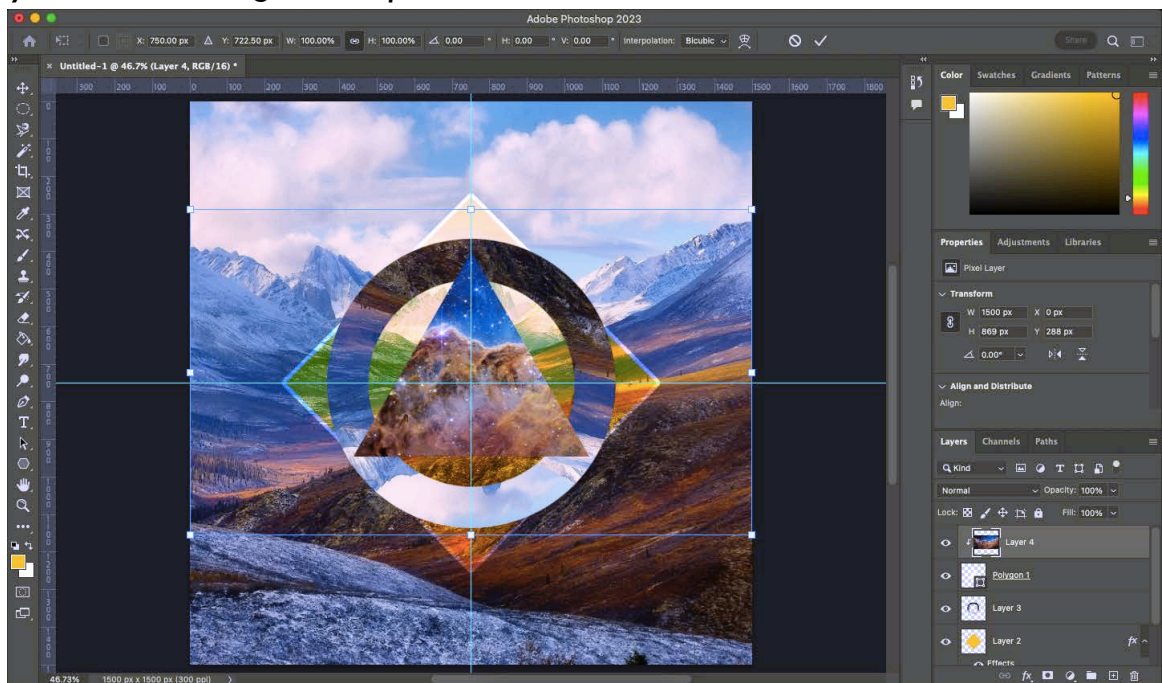

Drag a triangle shape from the center guides while holding Shift. Move & Enlarge to overlap the inner circular ring but smaller than the outer ring.
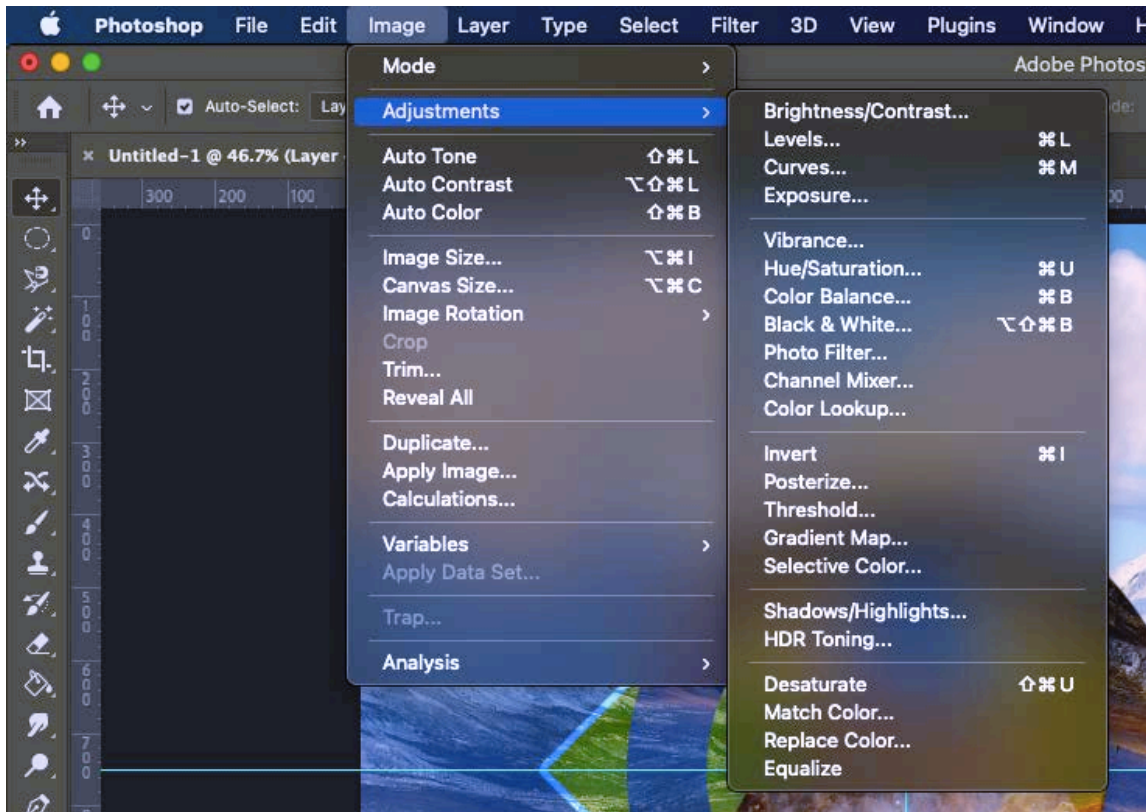
Step 11: Drag and drop your second image to Photoshop. This will create a new layer at the top of your layer palette.

Step 12: Create a layer mask by dragging your cursor onto the layers palette between your top two layers (your second image layer and your triangle layer) and click while holding option. Press Command T to adjust & move your second image. Then press return.

Step 13: Your Polyscape is now complete but you can add some adjustment layers to improve contrast, colour balance and vibrance if you like. The adjustments can be found on the Image> Adjustments tab, then the property that you want to adjust.

Step 14: When you are happy with the results, press Command S to save your composition as a PSD. Then flatten your image (Layer > Flatten Image)and press Command Shift S to save as a JPG (Don't press save again after flattening).

Complete one according to the strict instructions laid out in the tutorial.
Save as a JPG image to your Onedrive and label it with "your name-polyscape1"

Once you have finished your first polyscape you may create another one being creative with your composition, chosen image and the geometric shapes that you use.

Save and label appropriately as JPG images.

Upload both your first and second Polyscapes as JPG images to your Teams assignment submission.

Created: 2011
Last Updated: 2023 February (PSv24)