

Welcome! This course is all about falling in love with Photoshop... and you're in the right place.

Have you never used Adobe Photoshop before? It's time to get your feet wet and dive in. Maybe you've used this great program a little. Well, this course will help you get more comfortable. Perhaps you've used Illustrator for years, but Photoshop is still a mystery. This course will help you navigate through Photoshop confidently and take the 'road less travelled.

Adobe Photoshop is an extremely powerful program. Its countless options, tools, and settings can open up a world of opportunity. Photoshop enables designers like you create artwork that is more authentic and representative of their true artistic style. I'm confident that with the proper training and guidance Photoshop will become your "go-to" tool for digital artwork development!

Before I get started I want to take a moment to introduce myself, Michelle Fifis and Sherry London. Sherry created this course, as well as our [Photoshop for Designers](#) workshop with surface pattern designers, graphic designers and artists in mind. Sherry has written over a dozen books on Photoshop, Illustrator, and Painter and has one of the deepest understandings of Photoshop of anyone that I have ever worked with. My name is Michelle Fifis and I am the creative director of Pattern Observer Studio. I have worked in the industry for over thirteen years with such clients as Lucy Activewear, Columbia Sportswear, Jantzen Swimwear, Pendleton and P&B Textiles. I write about business and textile design on my blog, [Pattern Observer](#) and run our design membership community, The Textile Design Lab, which offers learning and networking opportunities to hundreds of designers [worldwide](#). I'll be your guide through this course for the next five days.

In this course we will cover:

Day One: What is Photoshop?

Day Two: Opening Photoshop-It won't bite!

Day Three: How to work with your original artwork in Photoshop

Day Four: Playing With Brushes

Day Five: Working with Photoshop & Illustrator

So let's get started!

# Day One: What is Photoshop?

Photoshop is a raster based design program. A raster image is made up of pixels, which are tiny dots. Pixels are the smallest building block—the atomic structure—of an image.

When imagining pixels Sherry says to think of a sheet of graph paper. Each pixel is one grid space on the page. Lets look at this image as an example. On the left you can see our tree at actual size. Next to it you can see the same tree if we zoomed in very closely.

Pay attention to the basic structure of the raster image. You can see how the pixels actually work together to create the tree motif.

So how does this raster image differ from a vector format that is used in Illustrator? Here you can see a tree that was created in Illustrator. It's totally smooth and has no jagged edges. That's the difference between a raster image and a vector image.

## **What is Photoshop used for?**

Photoshop can be used to manipulate photos, scans of sketches, and scans of paintings. It can also be used to create digital artwork like you see here. It's a powerful program that is much like painting and really allows for an artist's creativity to shine!

## **How do I purchase Photoshop?**

In spring 2013, Adobe surprised everyone by deciding to no longer upgrade programs purchased under their original license agreements. The last product that could be purchased outright was the Creative Suite 6 (CS6). Instead, it announced that only subscription products would be updated. This is the Creative Cloud.

Currently, Creative Cloud is available for a monthly fee of \$49.99 (US) on a one year contract. For the same investment of \$600 a year, you can access Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Lightroom, DreamWeaver, Flash, Premiere, After Effects, Acrobat, and a host of web products and services including Behance and fonts. If you need them, it's actually a huge bargain.

With a Creative Cloud Subscription, you never need to pay for an upgrade again. All updates are automatic and frequent.

In tomorrow's lesson we will open up Photoshop and begin exploring our workspace settings.