Creating Digital Art

How to create backgrounds and drop in subjects

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Software I Use

(not necessarily all the time)

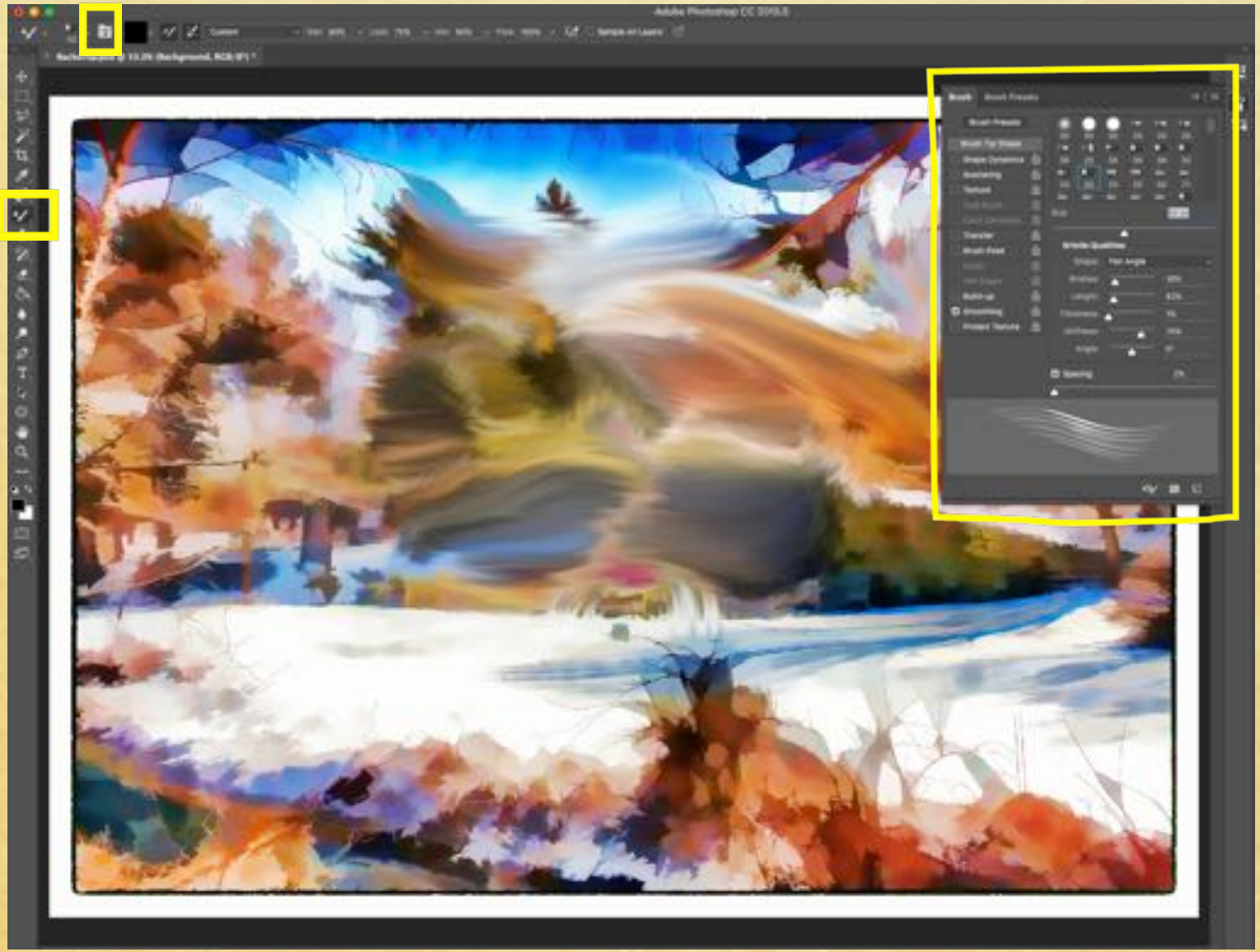
Corel Painter
Photoshop
Akvis Art Suite, Sketch, and Work
Topaz Simplify, Impression, ReStyle, and Texture
Alien Skin Snap Art 3
Flood
Photos of textures I have taken
Nik Color Effects Pro 4

Sometimes I start with a blank canvas, other times I may start with an image.

I started by importing this image into Photoshop

- I opened it in Topaz Simplify
- Applied Buzz Sim>Desaturated II

Next I boosted the color saturation



I followed this with the Mixer Brush tool in Photoshop to mix and blend colors on the image. The idea is to move and blend what colors you want to use with the subjects colors.

Many times I get the question: How do you know what colors to use?
Answer: You need to know color theory. For those that do not you can use: Topaz ReStyle to create the color pallet that will work with your subject. Key: Pick a color or two on your subject.

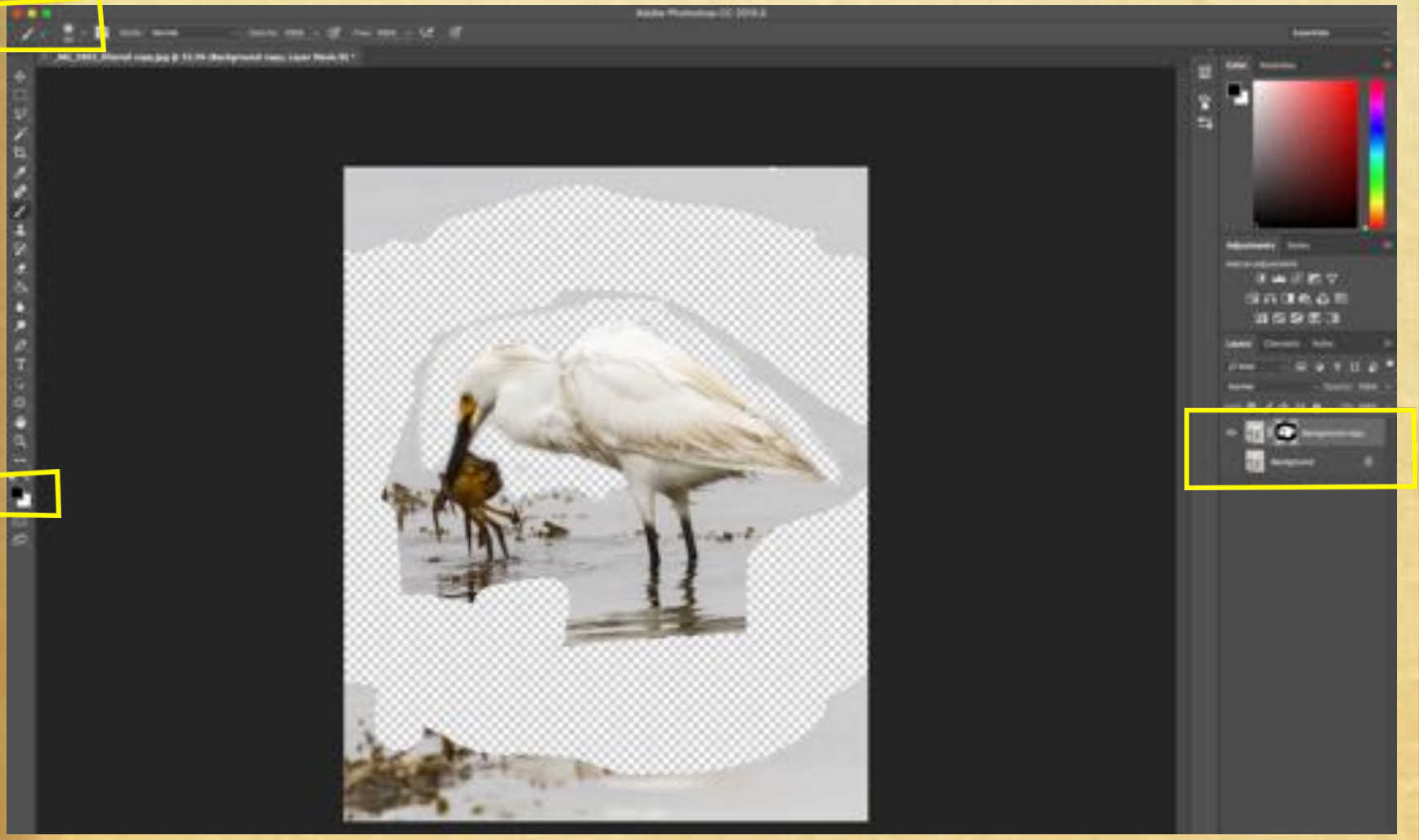
I then opened the image in Topaz Impression 2 and applied Fine Brush Scumble with canvas texture applied. This further blends, while adding brush stroke effects, and canvas texture.

My next step was to select the section of the image I was going to use with my subject.

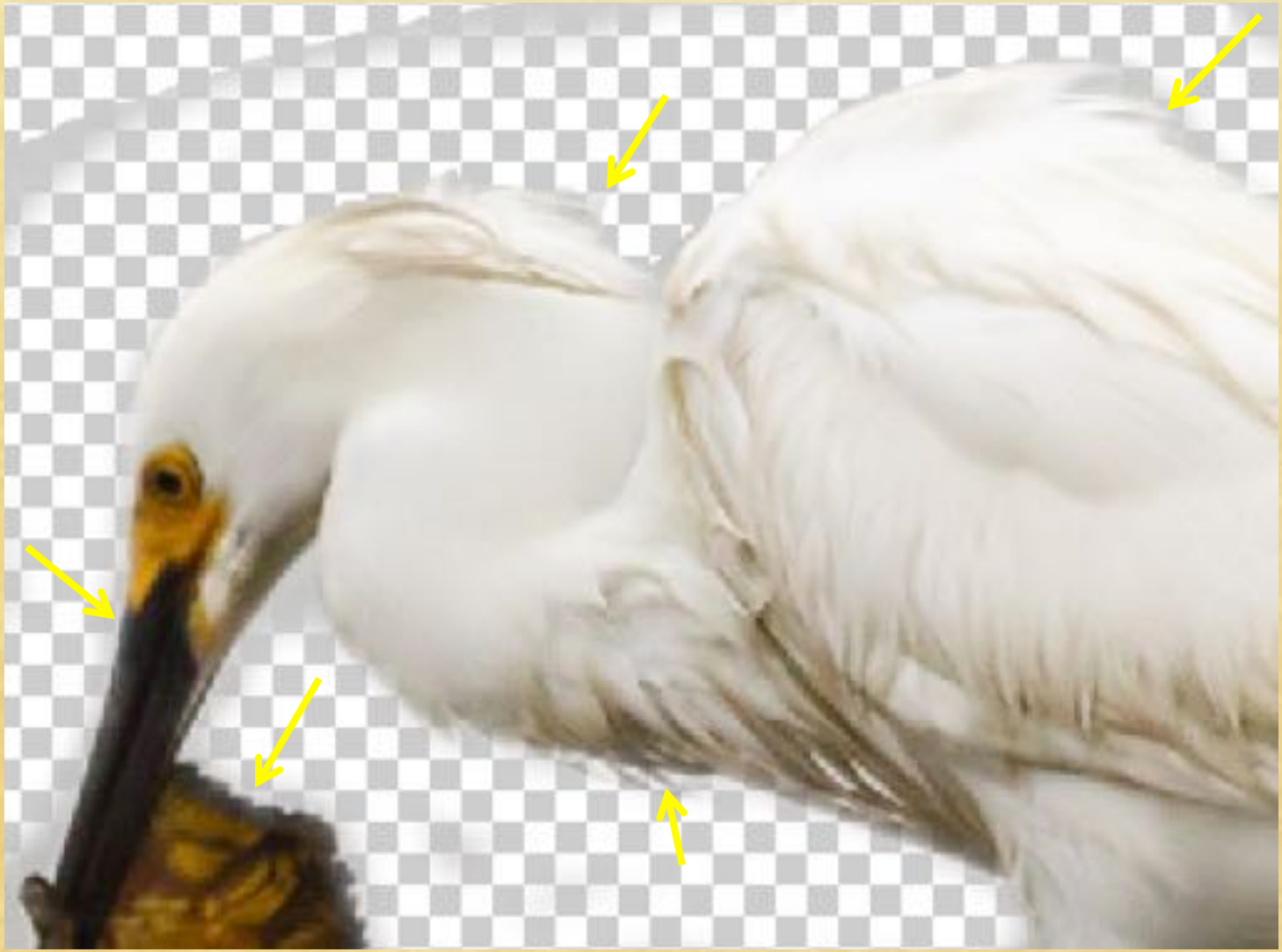
I next applied a water effect with the program, “Flood.”

Now I created some reeds with thin brush stroke applied with Photoshop.
I am now ready to apply my subject to the background.

Here is our subject! The question is how do I select or isolate the subject from the background? Answer: I mask it out.



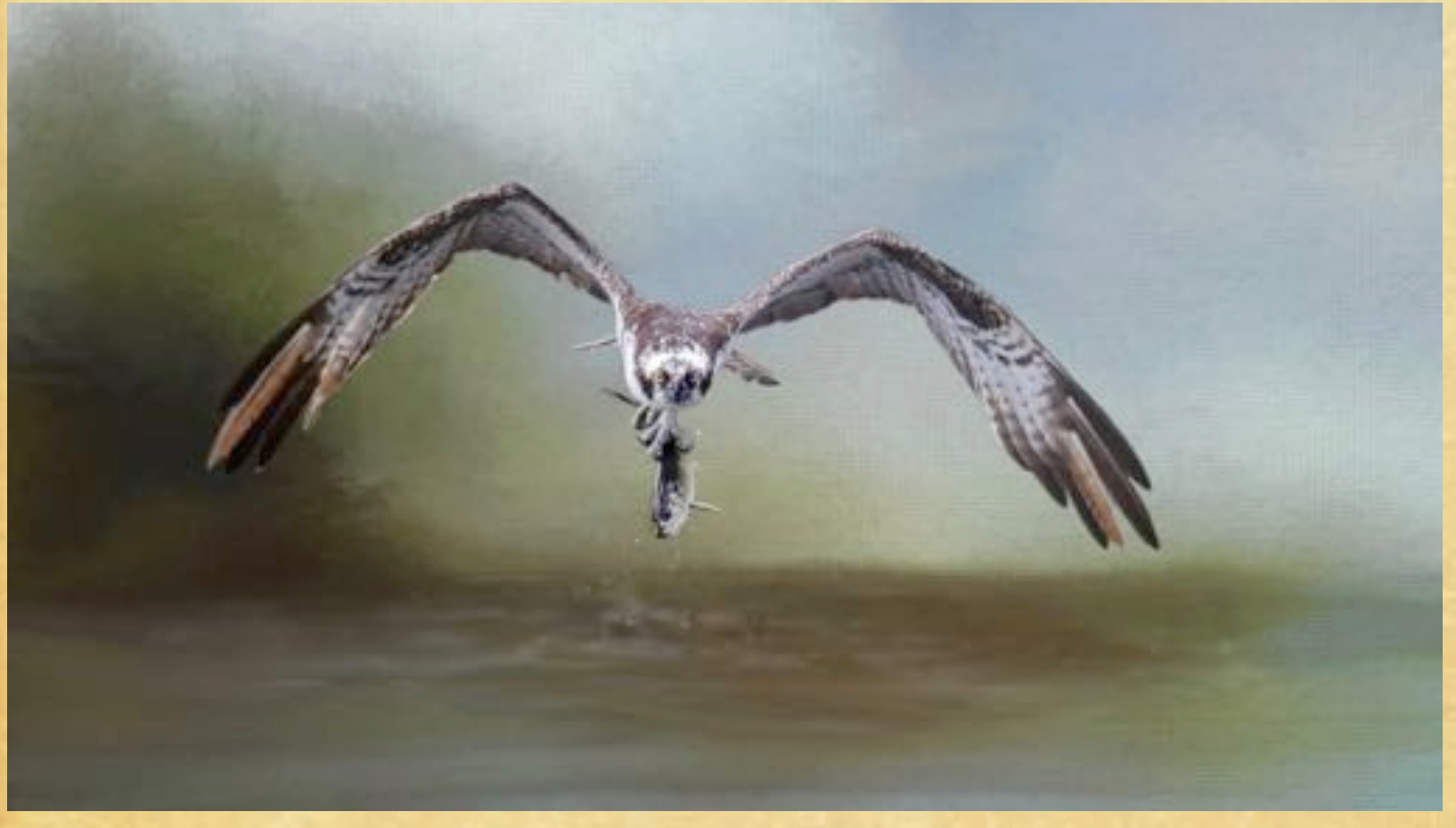
I start by duplicating the layer. Then add a mask. Click off the first layer. Next using a relatively large SOFT brush, I click on black and remove the background.



The soft brush leaves details and allows for easier blending with ones background.

I then copy and past/import/drag and drop my subject onto the background.

Last step was to apply Nik's Color Efex Pro 4 > Duplex.



Now its your turn!

There are no wrongs,
Just

Repeat the attempts
until your successful!

Lessons for SBCC members are $20 per hour.