

Photo Challenge: Levitation



The Challenge:

Make a subject appear to float in the air



Learning Targets:

- I can use layer masks in Photoshop
- I can compose a photo and direct a subject

Featured
Artist:

Natsumi Hayashi





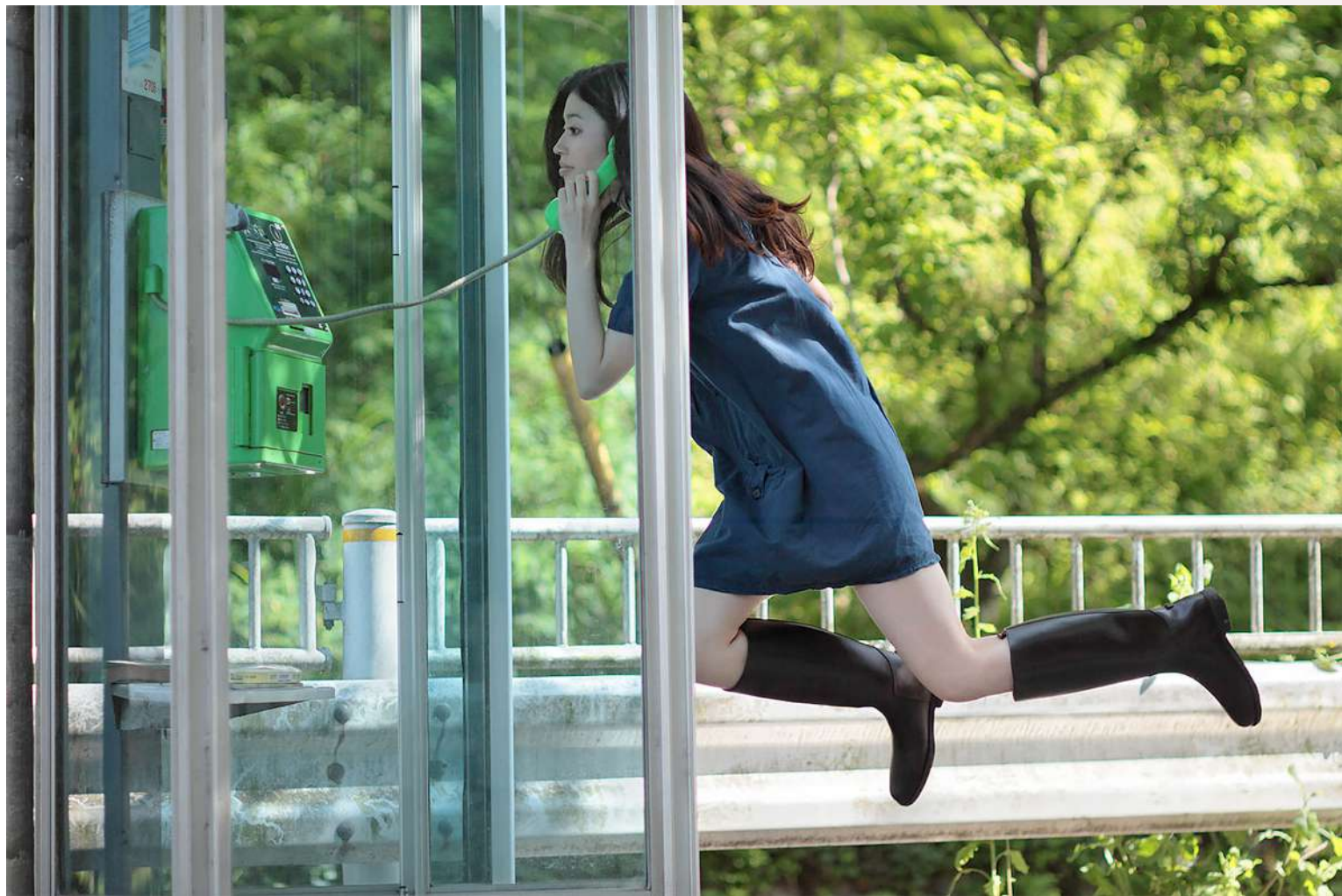
Hayashi, who lives in Tokyo, presents photographs of herself looking light as air, shot mostly around the city. She uses a tripod, a timer, and a shutter speed of 1/500 of a second or faster to capture photos mid-jump.

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I wanted to express myself as an honest person ‘whose feet are not firmly planted on the ground’ by shooting myself being free of the gravity of the Earth.









Hayashi uses a fast shutter speed to capture her levitation photos, but it can take her hundreds of photos to capture the perfect shot.

To save time and practice our Photoshop skills, we'll use a different approach.

LEVITATION Photography Tutorial



Step 1: Take your background photo

The camera person will first set up the background shot. Set up a tripod so your camera stays in the same place for both shots. Take a photo of the background **without the subject**.



Step 2: Photograph your subject

Have your model stand on the chair and direct their pose. Keep your camera on the tripod so that your background photo and the photo with the subject match. Take a photo **with the subject**.



Step 3: Use a layer mask

Overlay the two images in Photoshop using layers. Adjust your layer transparency to make sure the two layers match if necessary. Create a layer mask and make sure the brush tool is set to black. Paint away the chair



Step 4: Make any other adjustments

Crop, clean up edges, remove imperfections, adjust lighting, brightness/contrast, hue/saturation, etc



Tips:

- Keep toes pointed-- flat feet break the illusion of levitation!
- Choose a background that is not too distracting
- Subjects, try to stay loose and not too stiff. Pretend you're really floating!

Suggested Camera Settings:

Set camera to Aperture Priority (Av on your mode dial) and choose a high aperture, such as f/16, so that you have a wide depth of field.

Remember that these are only *suggestions* based on certain conditions. You may need to adjust them!

Directions:

Work in pairs or small groups. You will need tripod and a chair or stool. Take at least 20 good quality photos, with different poses and backgrounds. Choose your best 5 images to edit in Photoshop and upload to Google Classroom as JPEGs.