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Adobe Photoshop Versus Adobe Illustrator

In the world of graphic design, there are two programs that are the go-to for any designer. These programs are Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator. The two brother programs are different in the fact that they have different uses, have different features, and have different users, but they are similar in the fact that they are used to create.

Adobe Photoshop was created to be an intensive photo-editing program that has more in-depth features and tools than any other program like it. A few examples of the manipulations that can be done are tweaking the exposure, making pixel-level changes, and doing color corrections (Brandon 110). Exposure deals with the amount of light and darkness that makes up the image. This means that dark images can be brightened up to be more visible and bright images can be darkened to be easier on the eyes. As for pixel-level edits, there are several different ways to utilize this ability. It can be used to make a very specific selection of a selected color. This will highlight all of the pixels on the canvas that share this color, making it possible to edit them. It is also possible to use the patch tool to retouch an image. This is best used for cleaning up any blemishes or inconsistencies in the image. Being able to make color corrections is as plain and simple as it sounds. Photoshop is able to adjust the color of a subject or change the color entirely to a different color.

What makes Photoshop unique compared to Illustrator is that it uses bitmap images. This means that the image is made up of millions of pixels. This makes the possibilities of

customization limitless. The only downside is that when the image is zoomed in or blown up, it will lose quality as it becomes blurry. The canvas in Photoshop, also known as the artboard, is very limited compared to Illustrator. Users that are using Photoshop are limited to one artboard. They also cannot move beyond the borders of the canvas, meaning the work that is being done needs to be within the boundaries of the artboard.

As stated before, Photoshop is used to edit photos. This means that the program is tailored for artists. This is for a few reasons, number one being that there are a limitless number of possibilities when editing images and adding effects. Another reason is that it can be used to create more traditional art from scratch as long as the user is knowledgeable about the program.

On the other hand, Adobe Illustrator was created as an extensive design program that would be used mainly for branding work. The vector-based program utilizes mathematical equations to define an image rather than pixels (Alspach 5). This makes it more useful for designers since the design can be multi-purposed to be used in newspapers and resized to fit on billboards. The blob brush tool is a brush that creates vector objects (Alspach 7). This can make the base of a design, or it can be used to make an image into a vector image. Another program-unique tool that Illustrator has is the pathfinder tool. This feature works with two different objects that are on the artboard. The options that come with this tool are unite, minus, front, intersect, and exclude. For the pathfinder tool to work, the two objects need to be overlapping. For the unite option, the two objects will be joined together and will become one object. The minus front option is a little more tricky. The object that is on top will cut away at the bottom to make a new object. The intersect and exclude options are more or less the same. When the intersect option is used, the parts that are overlapping will be what is saved while the rest is deleted. The exclude option is the opposite, getting rid of the part that is overlapping. The

pathfinder tool is useful as it can be used to create different shapes as well as make unique designs.

There are quite a few things that make Illustrator different from Photoshop, the main difference being vector graphics. This does not use pixels but rather lines created using mathematical equations. If a vector image is zoomed in on or blown up, the image will not lose quality because the lines are crisp and clean. This makes the vector graphics more versatile and easier to use. Illustrator is also able to have multiple artboards and allows the user the ability to work outside of them (Alspach 3). This allows the user to work on different projects at once, minimizing the workflow. It also allows the user to spread out work, making it open and not cramped onto the artboard.

Overall, Adobe Illustrator is used more so for design work rather than editing and manipulation as Photoshop is. This means that Illustrator is catered more so to designers as it uses vector graphics as well as specific tools geared more for design work as opposed to editing. The option of have multiple artboards and being able to move the work out of the artboard is also a nice touch and makes editing easier on the user.

Both Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator are similar in the fact that they are used to create new things such as designs and edits, but they are different in the fact that they have different uses, features, and users. These three differences are what separate these programs and are what make them useful in their own way.

Works Cited

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