

How to Make a Triptych Image

Using PS Elements 7

1 Prepare your three images.

Do any editing you need to do to your three images including borders if they are desired. Give each image a simple name or number and file them in a place where you can easily find them later. A new folder with the name "Triptych entry" would be good.

Borders

In the main menu go to **Image/Resize/Canvas Size** and enter a width amount with any of the unit options available except column. The percent option is only suitable if your images are square. The colour option is at the bottom of the box. Repeat this for each image.

Another option for borders is to scroll the "**Effects**" palette on the right of the screen for pre-set border options. Click "**Apply**" when you select one.

2 Assembling the images

Creating the Background Canvas

Go to **File/New** and click on **Blank File**. This will be the background.

A small window will appear in the middle of the screen for you to indicate the size that you would like this file to be. Click on either "Inches" or "CM" which ever one you are more conversant with. Put a size in the size box. Say 20inches or 52cm's for the width and the same for the height. You can crop the final image to the shape you would like later. Click "**OK**"

Setting Background colour

In the menu at the top of the screen click on "**Layer**" / "**New Fill Layer**" followed by one of the three options on the right and then "**OK**" in the new box that appears. With the Solid Colour a colour palette appears for you to choose the colour and style of your background.

Loading your three images into the Elements work space

Go to **File/Open** and select the folder containing your images. Click on each image and click "**Open**". Your images will appear as thumbnails at the bottom of the screen next to the thumbnail of your background.

Double - click on the background thumbnail so that it appears on the screen.

Next, keeping your finger pressed on the left side of the mouse, put the arrow on one of the thumbnail pictures and drag it up and onto the screen.

Click on the **“Move”** tool at the top of the tool menu on the left of the screen. Now you can change the size and drag the image to anywhere you would like. Repeat for the other two images. Once all three images are on the screen you’ll need to click on the appropriate image thumbnail on the right side of the screen should you need to move or adjust the image again. At this stage go to the main menu at the top of the screen and click on **“View”** then **“Grid”** and you can align the three images exactly where you would like them. Another method of alignment is to use the **“Align”** or **“Distribute”** options which are just below the main menu. Next go back to the main menu and click **“Layer”** then **“Flatten Image”** at the bottom of the options. This will compress all the files shown on the right of the screen into one file. With the **“Crop”** tool on the left of the screen, crop your triptych to the proportions you would like.

Saving your Triptych

Next go to **“File”** and **“Save as”**. Give your completed triptych a name and change the file format from Photoshop PSD to Jpeg. This will be your **“Master File”**

3 Your Entry Image

Make a copy of your exported Master triptych File and resize it to either the 1620 horizontal pixel size or the 1080 vertical size if your triptych is somewhere between a vertical or square format. This will be the file to submit with your entry form.

Other info

Please visit <http://www.nelsoncameraclub.co.nz/national-triptych-salon-2/> to view the rules and other information.

You’ll find excellent guidance on how to design your triptych entry on Jane Trotter’s (APSNZ) website <http://abstractedreality.com/articles/talking-triptychs/>

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