

Ways to Create a Triptych

by Ross Laing

KSCCC

April 2025



Ways to Create a Triptych

- ❖ Key Considerations
- ❖ Using Adobe Lightroom
- ❖ Using Photoshop (Methods 1 & 2)
- ❖ Using Paint (PC) or Paintbrush (Mac)
- ❖ Some Observations
- ❖ Additional Resources

Key Considerations

- ❖ Creating effective triptychs can be an engaging, fun and creative photographic challenge.
- ❖ Since a triptych involves three separate images, look for a series of three images that work together aesthetically and express a cohesive connection. A triptych will have more impact if it suggests a theme.
- ❖ An effective triptych requires considerable forethought and intentionality. Try selecting three images with the same or similar subjects, using unifying colours, or repeating specific forms and shapes in all three images.
- ❖ If dividing one image into three separate images to create a triptych, select an image that can be split into three segments with consideration to where separations will occur with main subjects, such as avoiding bisecting a person's face or an important landform, etc. Images that follow the “rule of thirds” are a good place to start in searching for a potential triptych.
- ❖ In general, vertical or portrait orientated images appear more common in triptychs and tend to be more visually appealing.

Using Adobe Lightroom

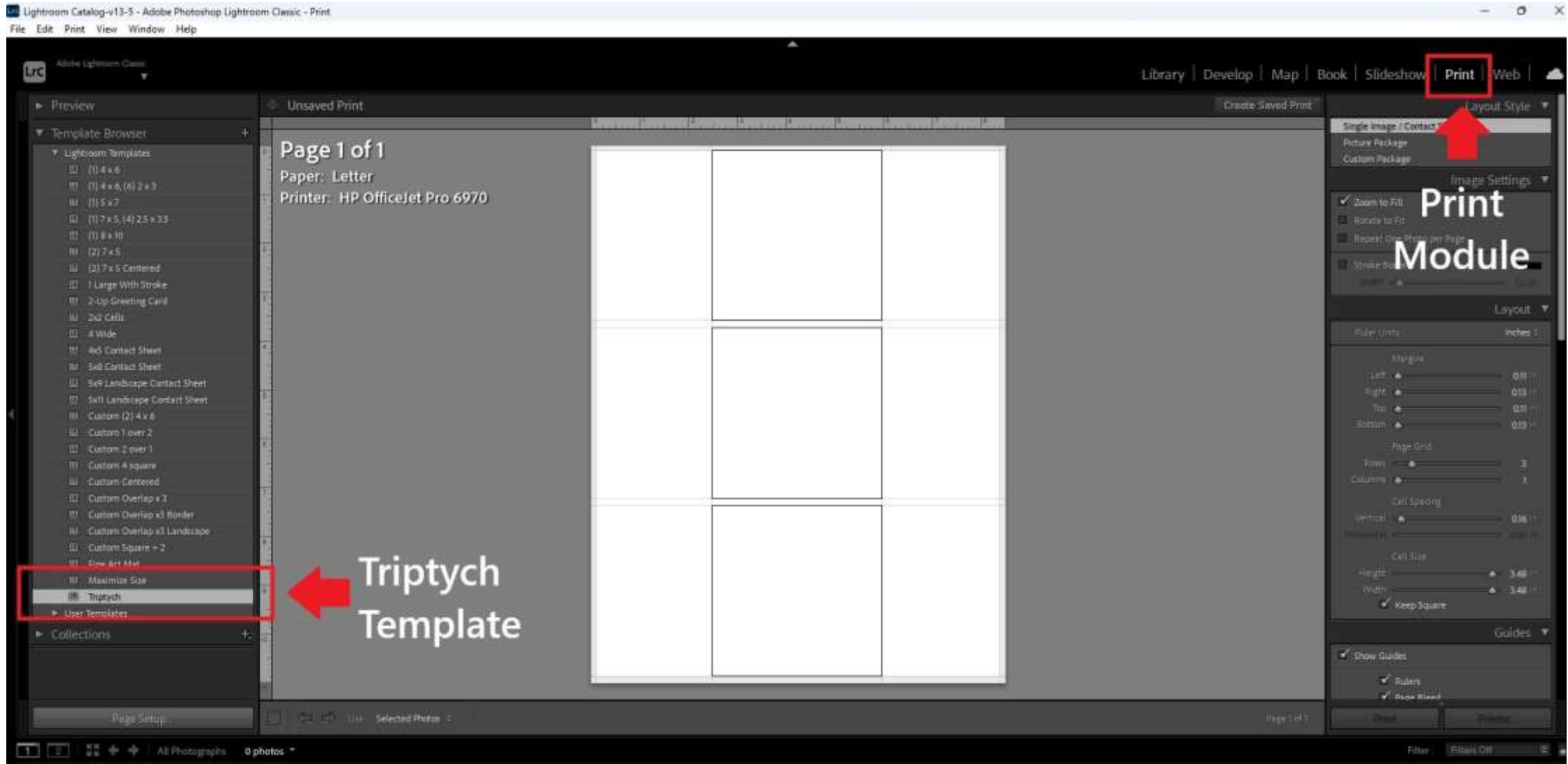


Source for this triptych technique:
“Triple Treat,” *Digital Camera World*,
Issue 287, November 2024, page 95



Using Adobe Lightroom

Print Module > Template Browser > Triptych



Using Adobe Lightroom



Using Adobe Lightroom

The screenshot shows the Adobe Lightroom Classic interface in the Print module. The main workspace displays a triptych layout of three landscape photographs. The left sidebar contains the Template Browser and Collections panels. The right sidebar shows the Print Job panel with various settings. A red arrow points from the text 'Scroll to very bottom of the Panel stack and change to "Print to: JPEG File"' to the 'Print to' dropdown menu in the Print Job panel. Another red arrow points from the text 'Save your Triptych with "Print to File"' to the 'Print to File' button at the bottom of the Print Job panel.

Lightroom Catalog-v13-5 - Adobe Photoshop Lightroom Classic - Print

File Edit Print View Window Help

Adobe Lightroom Classic

Library | Develop | Map | Book | Slideshow | **Print** | Web

Preview

Template Browser

Lightroom Templates

- (1) 4 x 6
- (1) 4 x 6 (6) 2 x 3
- (1) 5 x 7
- (1) 7 x 5 (4) 2.5 x 3.5
- (1) 8 x 10
- (2) 7 x 5
- (2) 7 x 5 Centered
- 1 Large With Stroke
- 2-Up Greeting Card
- 2x2 Cells
- 4 Wide
- 6x5 Contact Sheet
- 5x9 Contact Sheet
- 5x9 Landscape Contact Sheet
- 5x11 Landscape Contact Sheet
- Custom (2) 4 x 6
- Custom 1 over 2
- Custom 2 over 1
- Custom 4 square
- Custom Centered
- Custom Overlap x 3
- Custom Overlap x3 Border
- Custom Overlap x3 Landscape
- Custom Square + 2
- Fine Art Mat
- Maximize Size
- Triptych

User Templates

Page Setup

Page 1 of 1

Paper: Letter

Printer: HP OfficeJet Pro 6970

Triptych

Scroll to very bottom of the Panel stack and change to "Print to: JPEG File"

Print Job

Print to: JPEG File

Draft Mode Printing

File Resolution: 300 dpi

☒ Print Sharpening: Low

Media Type: Glossy

JPEG Quality: 100

Custom File Dimensions: 8.5 x 11

Color Management

Profile: sRGB

Intent: Perceptual

Print Adjustment

Brightness: 0

Contrast: 0

Print to File

Print: Triptych 3 photos / 3 selected / 35ee0981-8b6e-414e-8a1e-1d1ab307afe0_nra_1920.jpg / Copy 1

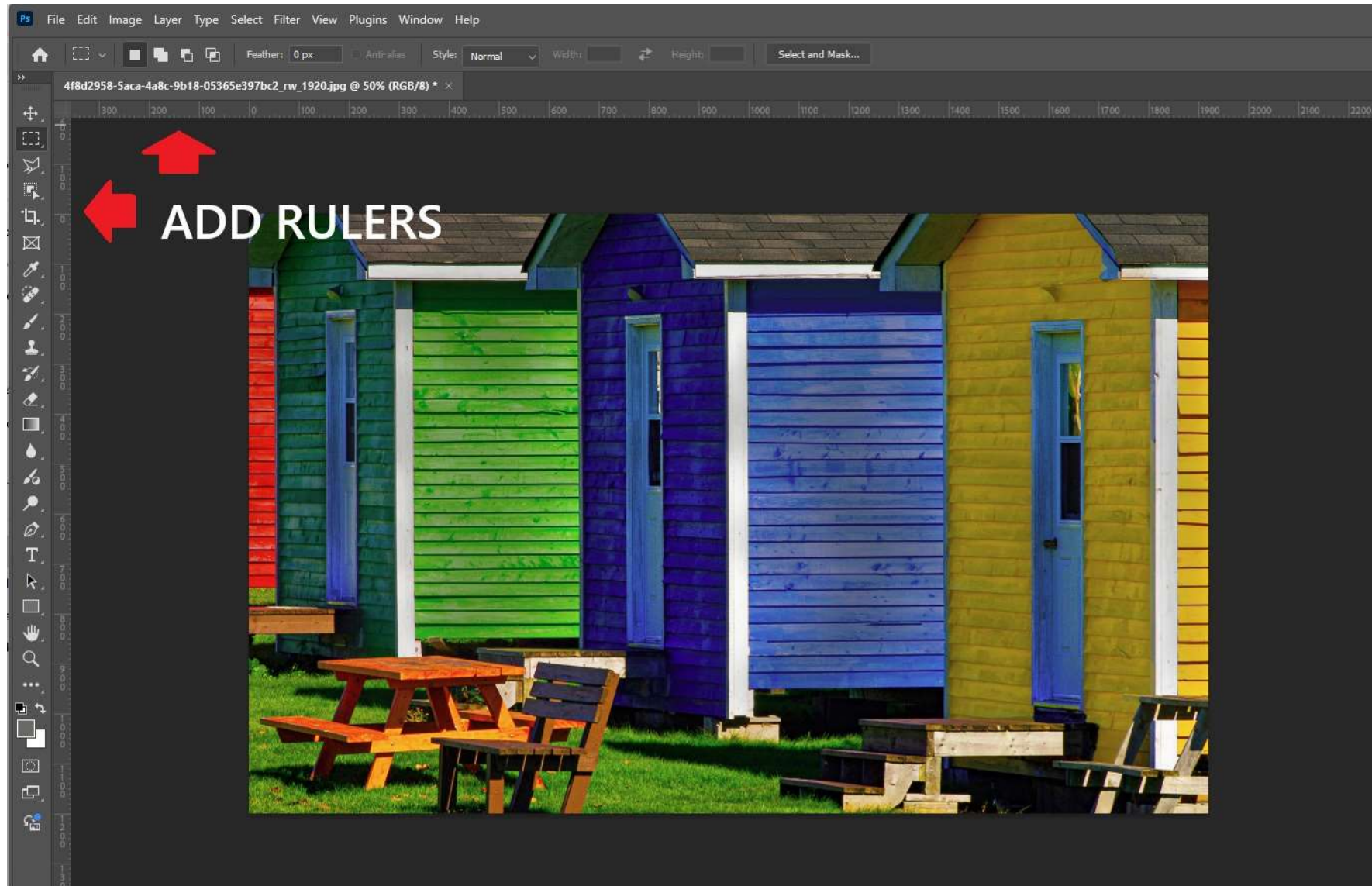
Using Adobe Lightroom



Using Photoshop to create a Triptych (Method 1)



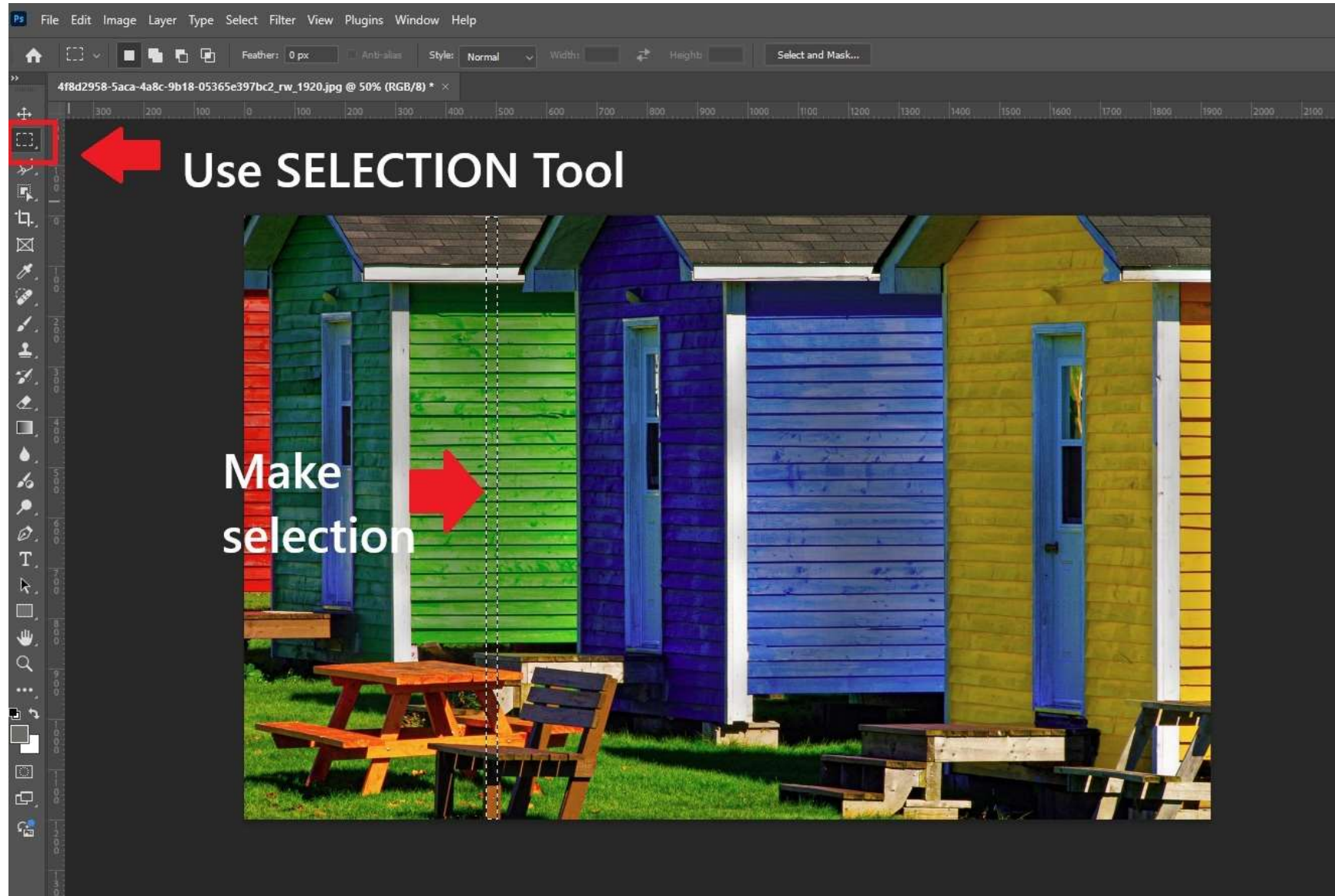
Using Photoshop to create a Triptych (Method 1)



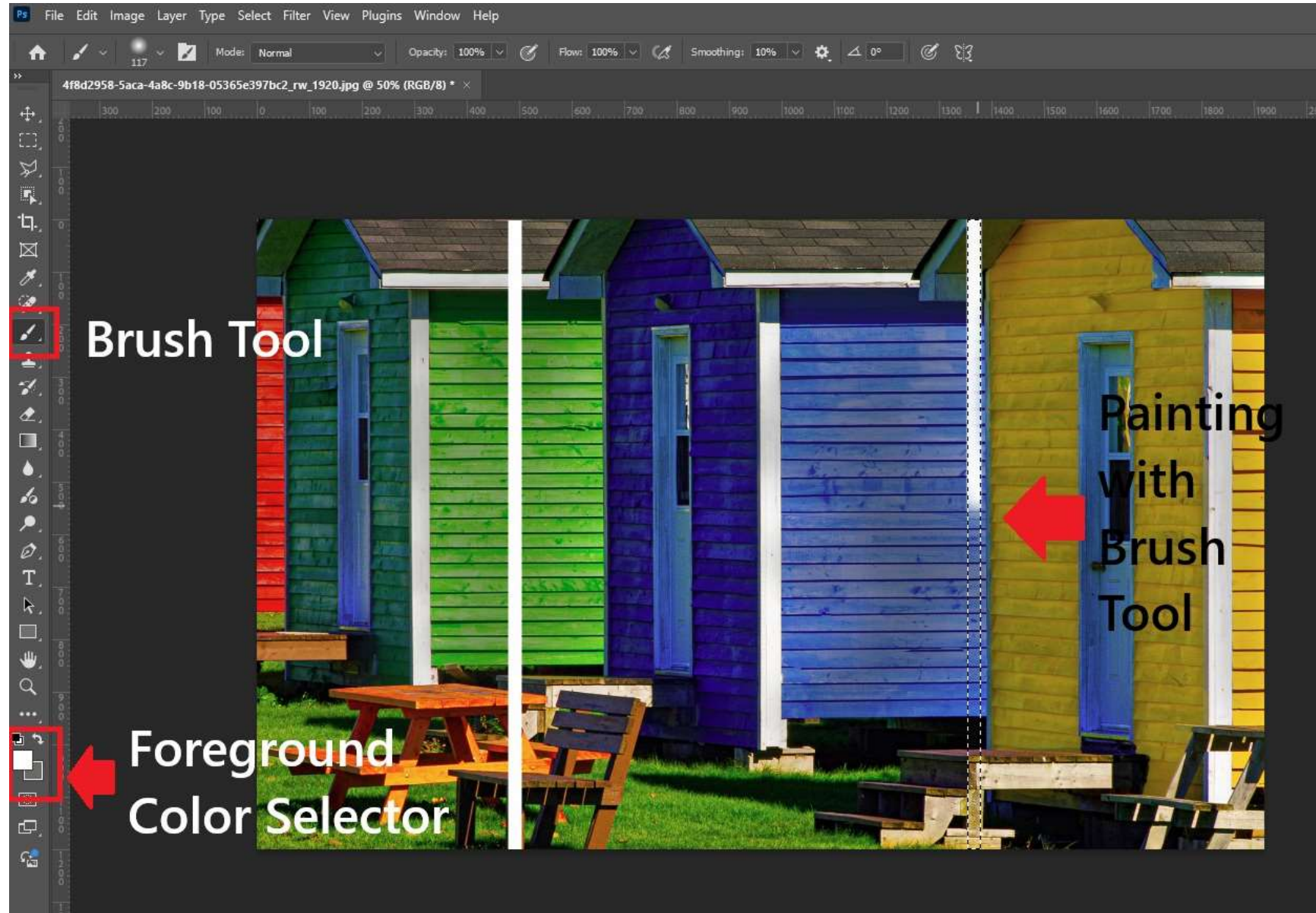
Using Photoshop to create a Triptych (Method 1)



Using Photoshop to create a Triptych (Method 1)



Using Photoshop to create a Triptych (Method 1)



Using Photoshop to create a Triptych (Method 1)



Seaside Cabins

Using Photoshop (Method 2)

EASY TO FOLLOW TUTORIAL - How to create a Triptych in Photoshop Tutorial (7:03)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gov4SIK0rm4>



Cactus Arm

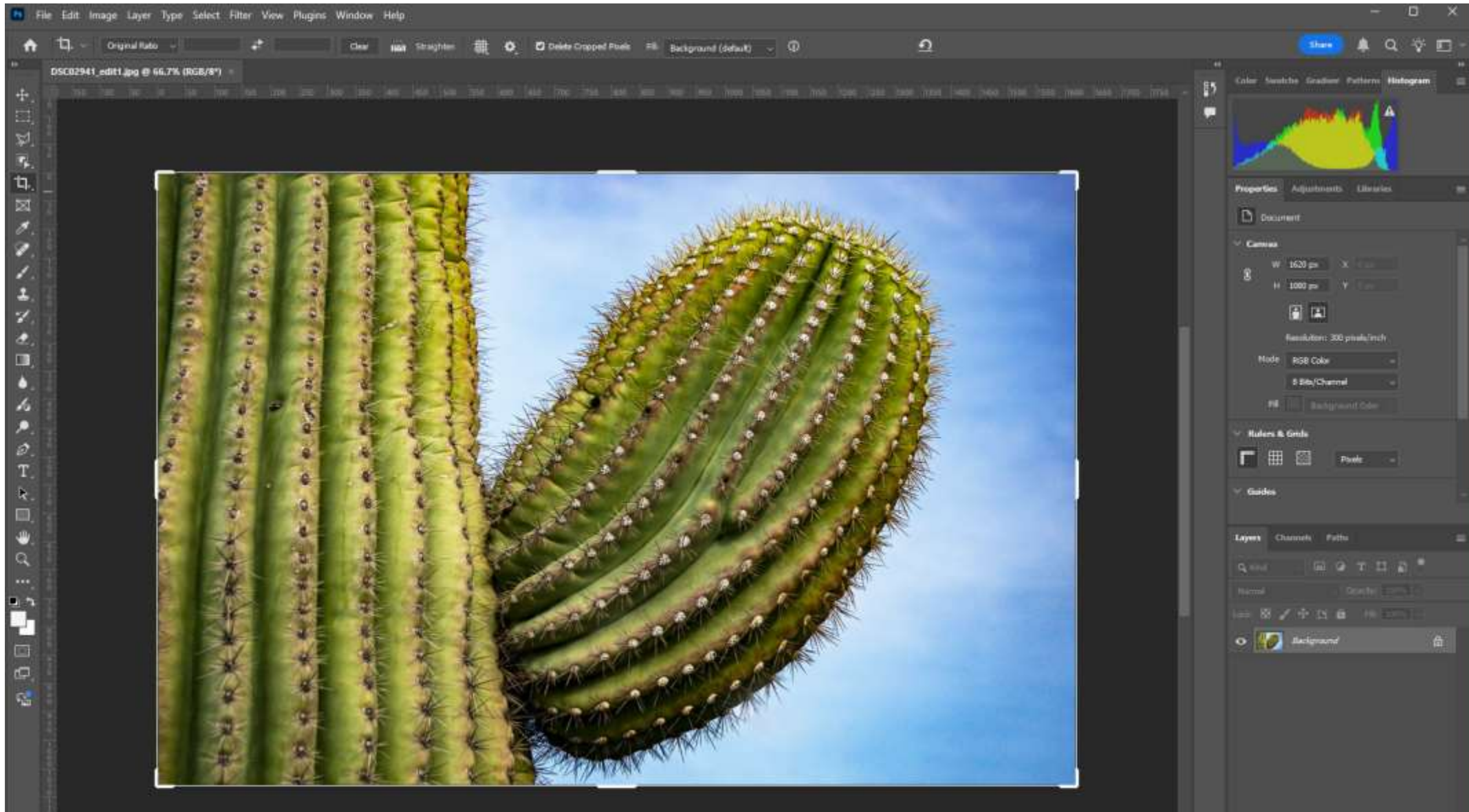
Using Photoshop (Method 2)

EASY TO FOLLOW TUTORIAL - How to create a Triptych in Photoshop Tutorial (7:03)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gov4SlK0rm4>

1. Open Photoshop
2. Under “View” > Guides> New Guide Layout > Columns “3”.
3. Under “File” > New> Custom (Create larger canvas such as 8000 x6000 pixels >Click “CREATE”
4. From the Tool Bar on the lefthand side, choose the SELECTION Marquee tool
5. Drag the SELECTION tool within the boundaries of the Guides (you will see the “marching ants”) and COPY
6. Switch to the “Untitled Window” and PASTE the copied Selection
7. Deselect (Control D) and repeat the copy and paste process for the remaining two segments of the triptych
8. Use the MOVE tool to align the three segments
9. If you wish, add a title using the TEXT tool
10. CROP and SAVE AS a JPEG

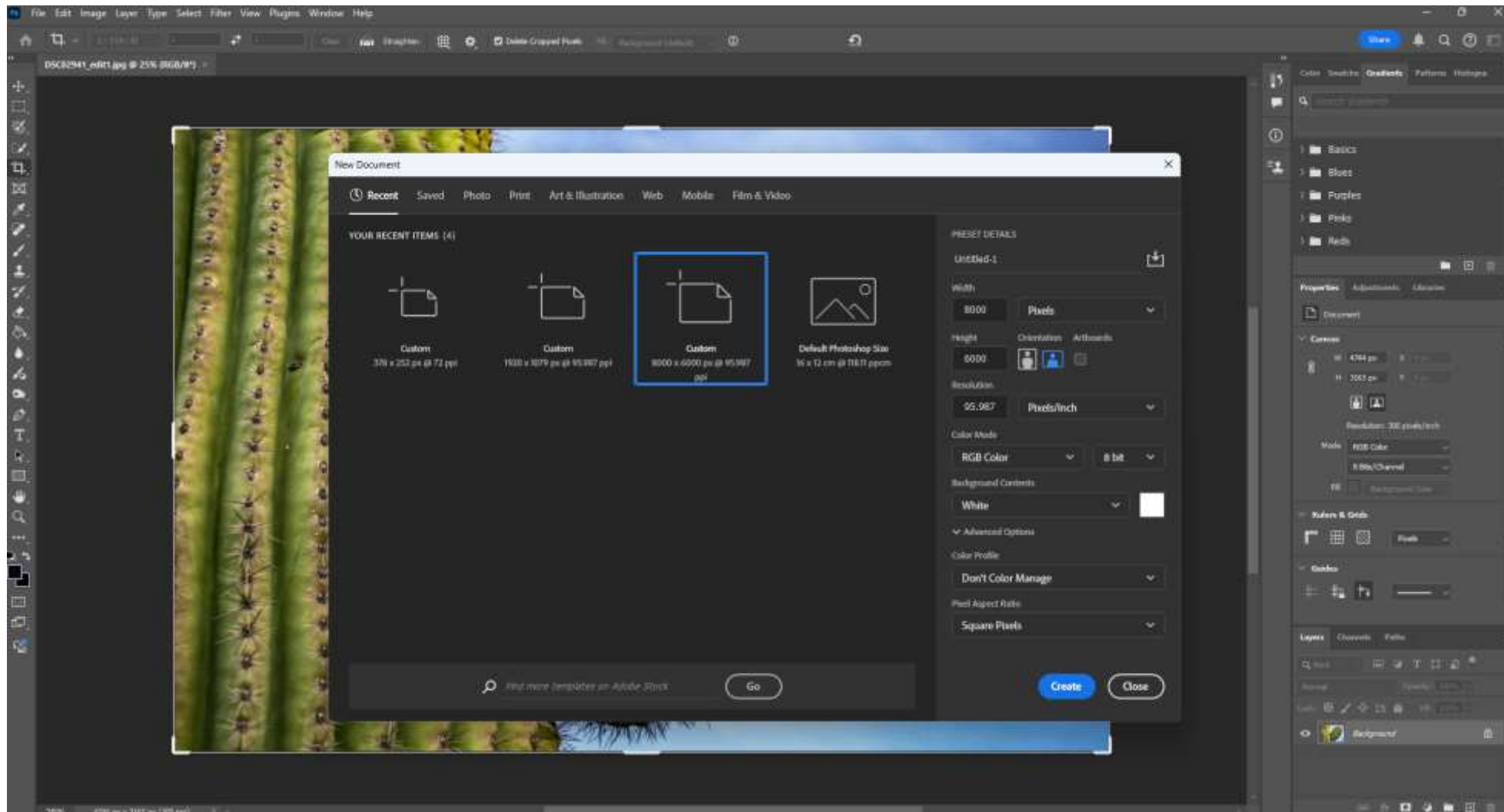
1. Open Photoshop with your image



2. Under “View” > Guides> New Guide Layout > Columns “3”



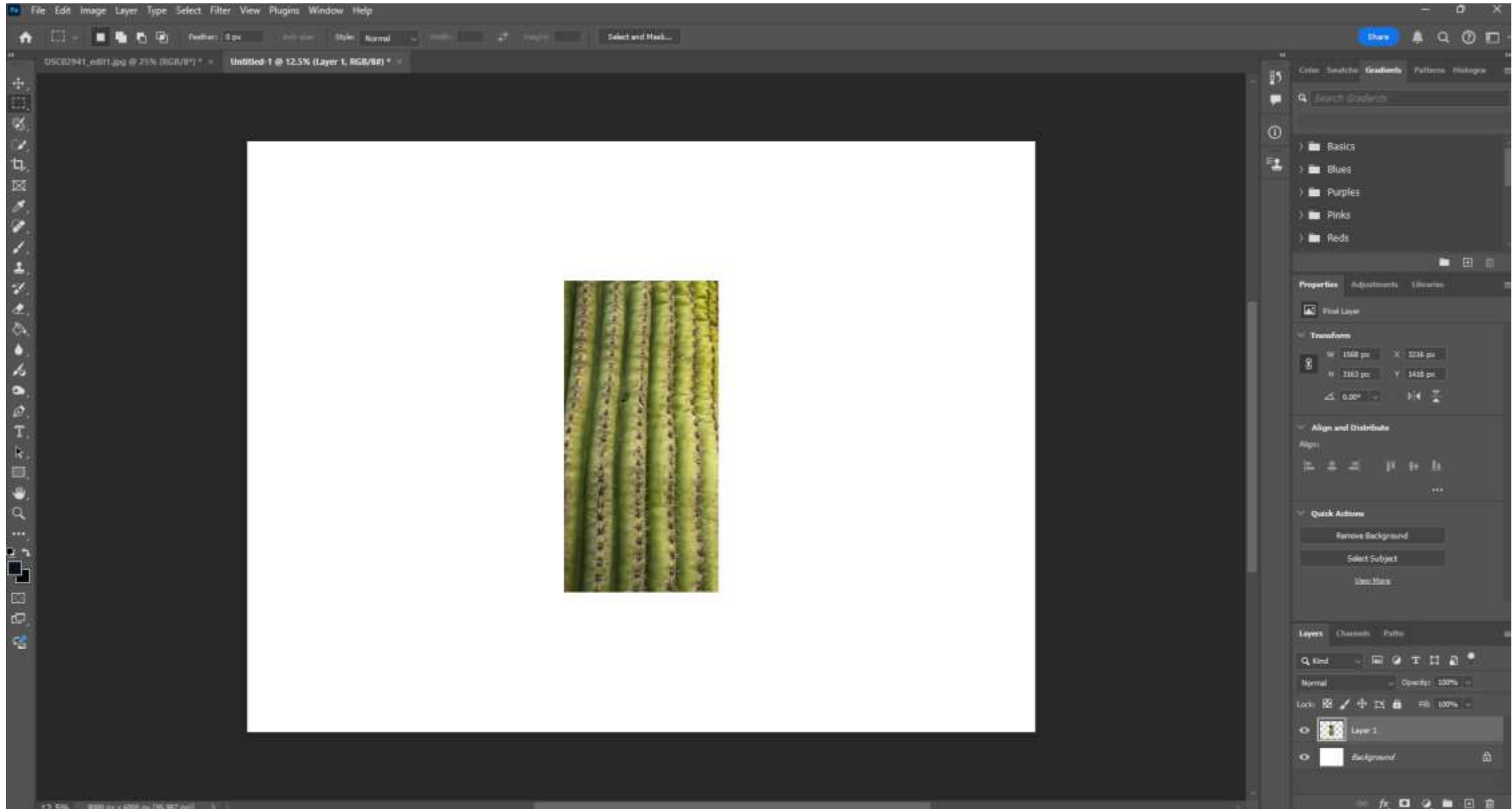
3. Under “File” > New > Custom (to create a larger canvas such as 8000x6000 pixels) > Click “CREATE”



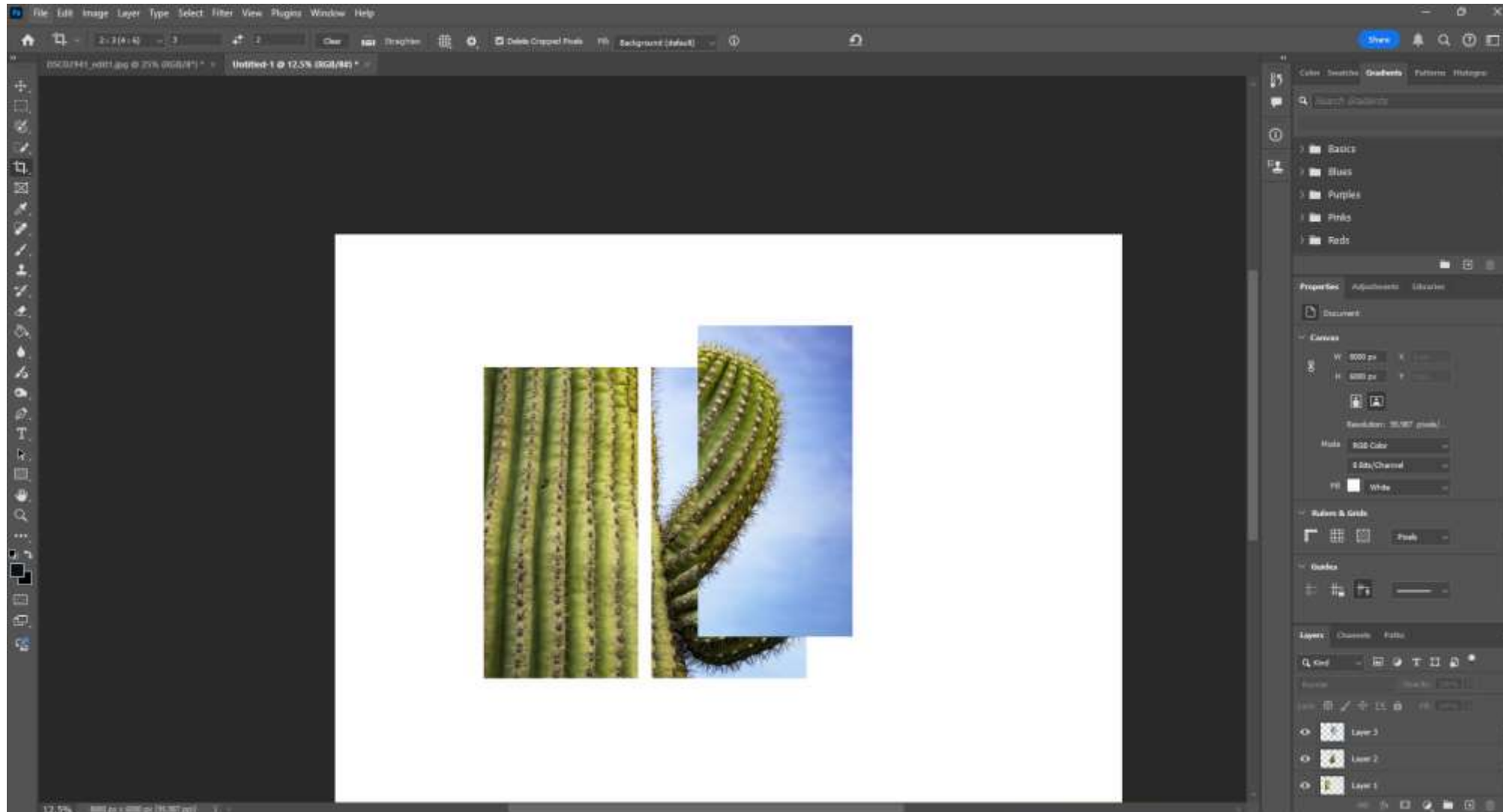
4. From the Tool Bar on the lefthand side, choose the **SELECTION** Marquee tool
5. Drag the **SELECTION** tool within the boundaries of the Guides (you will see the “marching ants”) and **COPY**



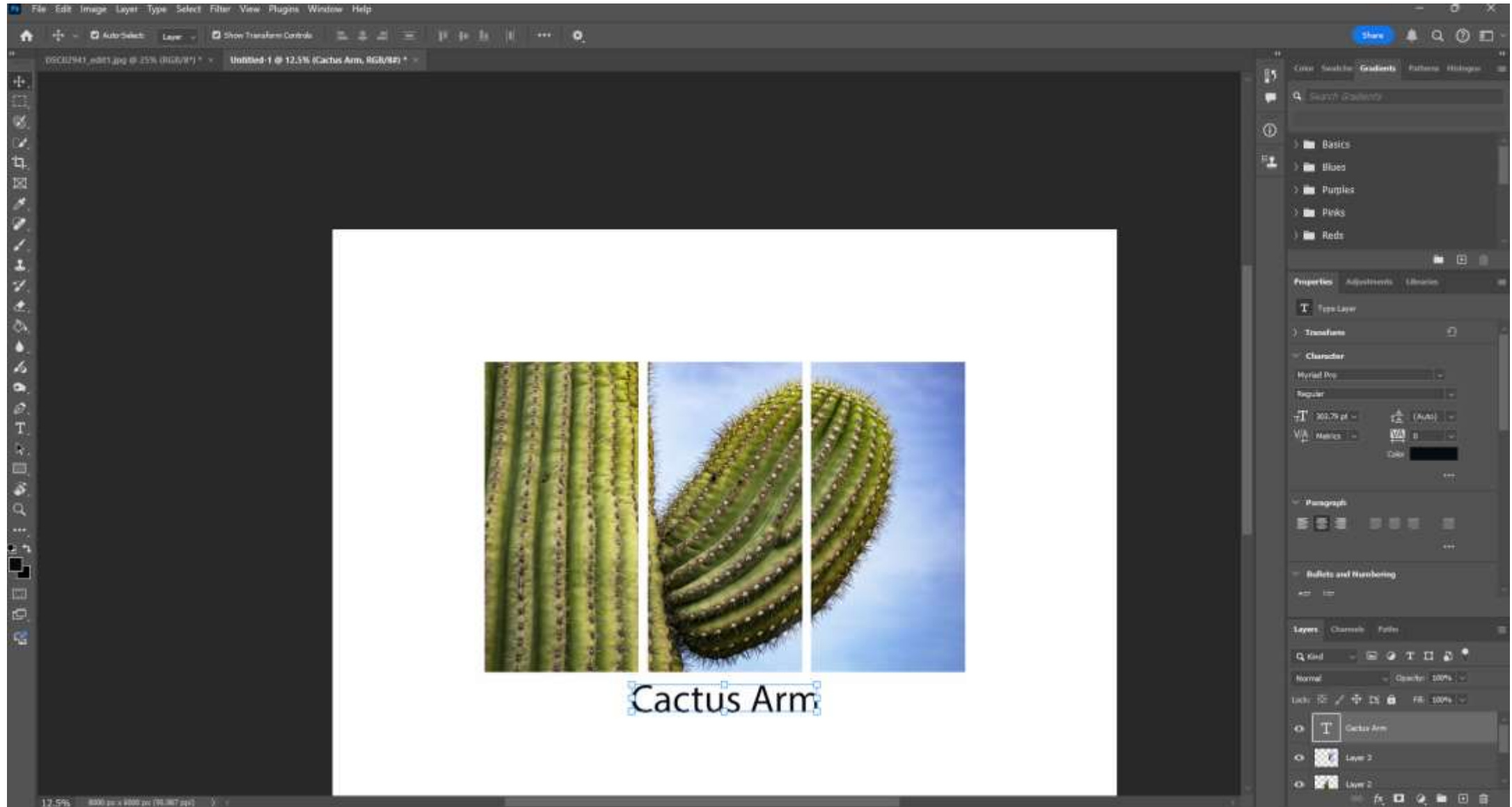
6. Switch to the “Untitled Window” and PASTE the copied Selection.



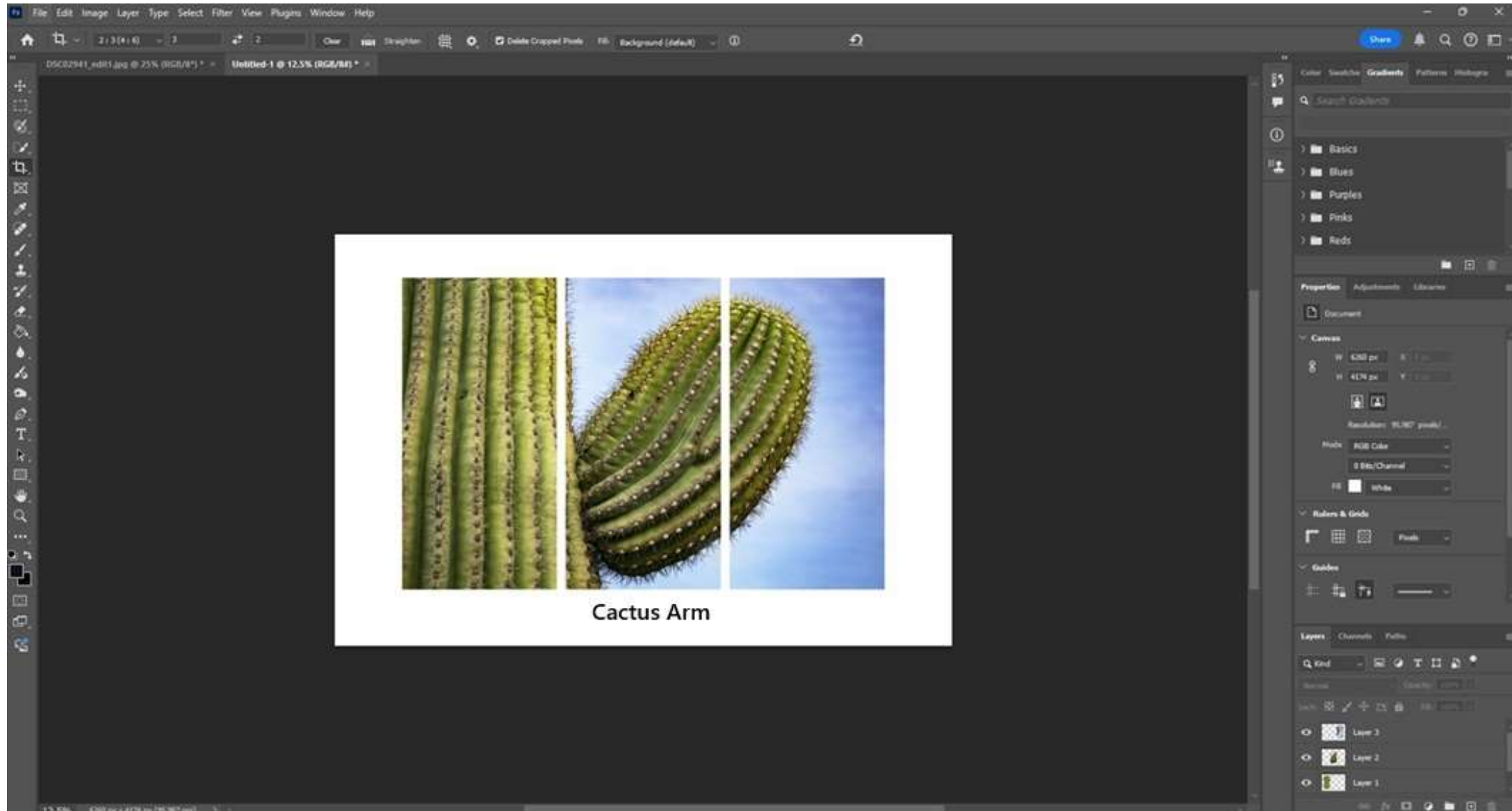
7. Deselect (Control D/Command D) and repeat the copy and paste process for the remaining two segments of the triptych
8. Use the MOVE tool to align the three segments



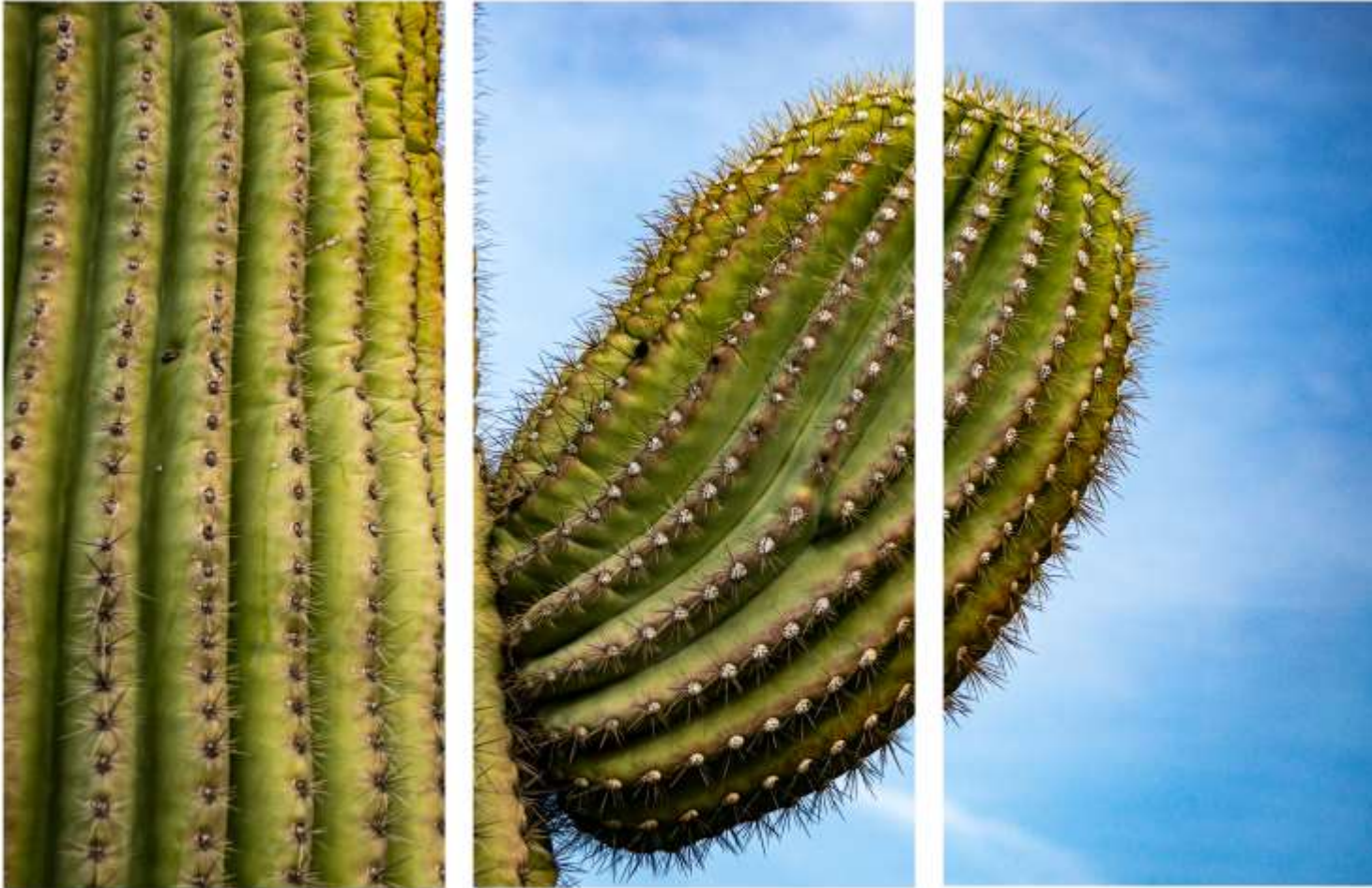
9. If you wish, add a title using the TEXT tool



10. CROP and SAVE AS a JPEG



Using Photoshop (Method 2)



Cactus Arm

Another example: Using Photoshop (Method 2)

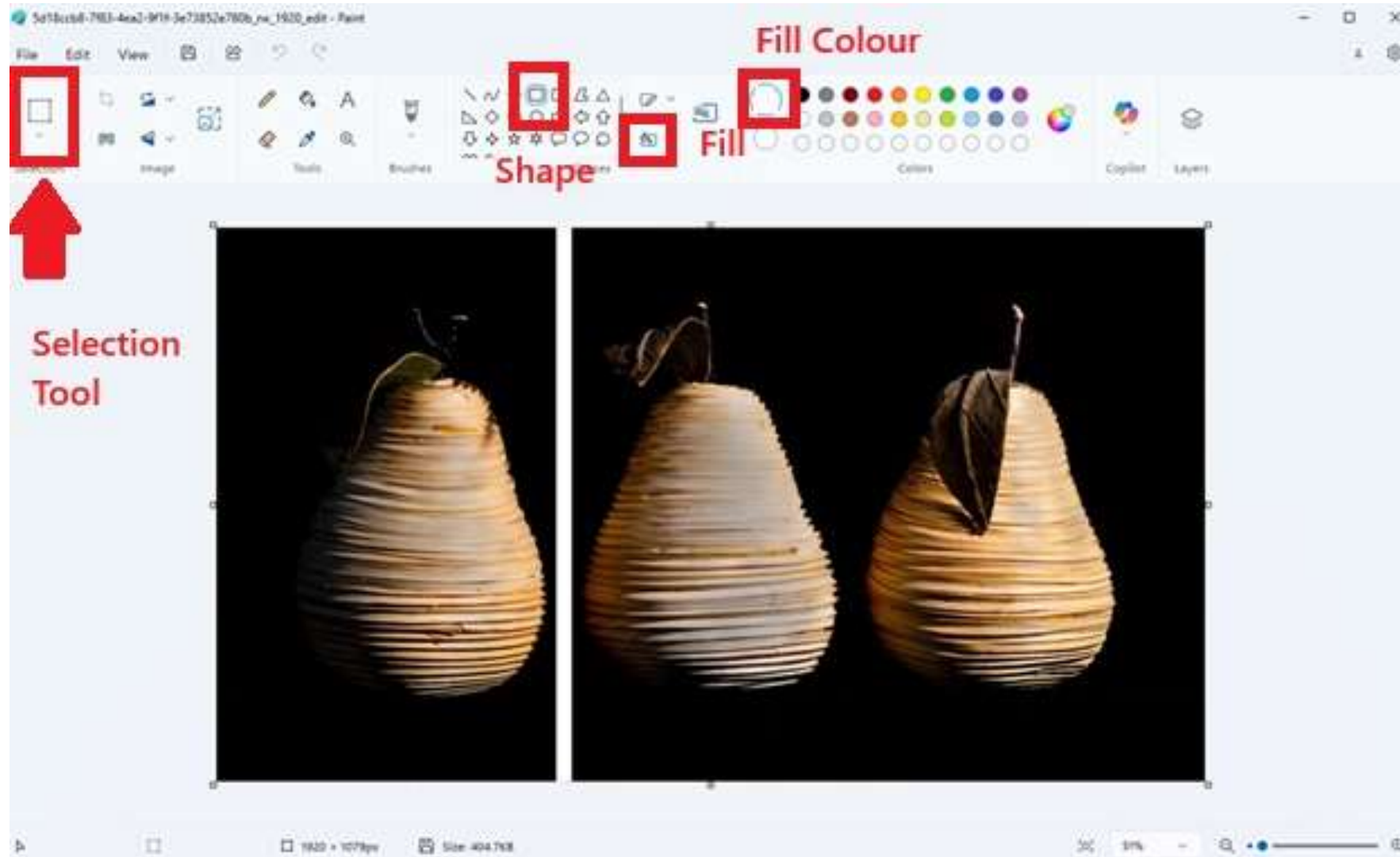


Cactus Forest

Using Paint (with a PC) or Paintbrush (with a Mac) to create a Triptych (Alternate Method)



Using Paint with a PC or Paintbrush with Mac to create a Triptych (Alternate Method)



Using Paint with a PC or Paintbrush with Mac to create a Triptych (Alternate Method)

Repeat the selection process, then crop and save.



Some Observations:

Using an image such as the one below might work well as a triptych, but it must be perfectly symmetrical.



Some Observations:

Horizontal VS. Vertical? A vertical orientation is usually more appealing.



Some Observations:

Be sure to check the alignment of each panel of the triptych

Poorly Aligned Dock Panels



Narrows Lock

Better Aligned Dock Panels



Narrows Lock v.2

Some Observations:

Not all panels of a triptych need to be the same size.



Note the different dimensions of the triptych panels of the *Adoration of the Magi*, Cologne Cathedral



Based on the subject, the dimensions of the triptych panels were selected to include the first set of dock cleats in the middle panel.

Additional Resources:

ARTICLES

How to Split a Photo Into Multiple Frames

https://www.artifactuprising.com/diy/triptych-photography-gallery-wall?srsId=AfmBOop3dxXOhC_xYcsntGf9-p9vXTEo_LCLWDYI7OP1mfbpCEZ1DJxx

Convert Photo to Triptych Style (*Free Triptych AI Image Filter*)

https://photostylelab.com/photo-styles/triptych/#google_vignette

Additional Resources:

VIDEO

How to create a Triptych in Photoshop | Tutorial (7:03)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gov4SIK0rm4>

Triptych Photography Shoot

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tdOnhiC6wpo&t=40s>

Additional Resources:

VIDEO

Using Photoshop to create a Triptych

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVUk_EetyzM

Creating Diptychs and Triptychs (Part 1)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RkAJE-RfZeo>

Pairing to Create Diptychs and Triptychs (Part 2)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zPohZkGqero>