Localized Contrast and Perception

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Overview

Fine contrast tools have the effect of sharpening, or de-sharpening, edges. Using these tools on selected parts of an image can be used to:

- Draw viewer's attention to a particular area/item
- Manipulate perception of distance
- Manipulate a sense of speed

Adobe products have Texture and Clarity tools. Topaz Studio 2 has Precision Contrast and Precision Details.

Distance Perception

- High humidity creates haze. Our brains interpret distance based on difference in sharpness

Hazy haystack appears farther away

Distance Misperception

- Extremely low humidity can lead to a lack of distance clues, resulting in a flat looking photo

Sharpen the Foreground More

Blur the Distance

Vary the amount of blur on the hills to create more depth

High Altitude = Low Humidity = Another Flat Image

Sharpen the Foreground

Trees in middle ground sharpened more on right of image than on left to increase sense of depth

Blur the Background

Motion Perception

- Is the train moving?

Motion Perception

Blurring everything but the train adds a sense of movement. Can be done with contrast or blur tools