



Chapter 19

Representational Surrealism

When you glance at an image like this, it becomes immediately apparent that it has a story to tell. The first thing you see is the large figure in the center being reborn. A new self bursts forth from the old self, and smaller elements on the perimeter of the image add to the narrative. The face looking through the magnifying glass represents self-analysis. The painting at the right represents a lack of focus and feelings of fragmentation. The figure with the hole in his chest represents emptiness. This image was autobiographical and all of the secondary elements represented my feelings at the time. I was due for a change and had made the decision to seriously pursue art. The figure in the center represents the cathartic relief I felt, and continue to feel to this day as a result of my decision.

Not only is the image shown here representational in terms of style, but it is also representational of my thought processes at the time of its creation. Apart from the subject matter, this image also meant change for me in terms of technique. It was the first time I decided to use photography as a resource to be heavily manipulated within an illustration. Manipulated, that is, to the point where it appears to be more painting than photography. What you'll learn in this chapter surpasses any mere collage technique.

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Experience with the Pen tool will be helpful as the creation of precise vector masks is important. Also, experience with the Brush, Blur, and Smudge tools will aid you in achieving smooth and painterly results. This portion of the chapter can be quite time consuming.