TECHNOPOP! -OR- HOW TO MAKE POP ART USING "TECHNOLOGY"

A TUTORIAL BY CECY CORREA

As you might know, since I assume you're not stupid or living under a rock, Andy Warhol used silkscreens to make his famous pop art pieces, such as the Campbell's soup can, or the Marilyn Monroe [pictured below].

You can create a pretty darn similar look using basic Photoshop. You can then use this Photoshop technique to project the results onto a canvas and paint away.

First, select a picture. I used the ever faithful Google Image search to look for a picture of Audrey Hepburn. Black and white pictures tend to work better, but if you can't find a decent black and white picture, you can always have Photoshop do that for you.

Now, all you have to do is increase the contrast. Amateurs beware! There are better ways of increasing the contrast of an image besides the "Brightness and Contrast" dialog box. The best ways to increase contrast is to use "Levels" or "Curves." Both of these options are more precise and give you more freedom of choice.

Go to Image>Adjustments>Levels
or use the keyboard shortcut "Command/Control+L"

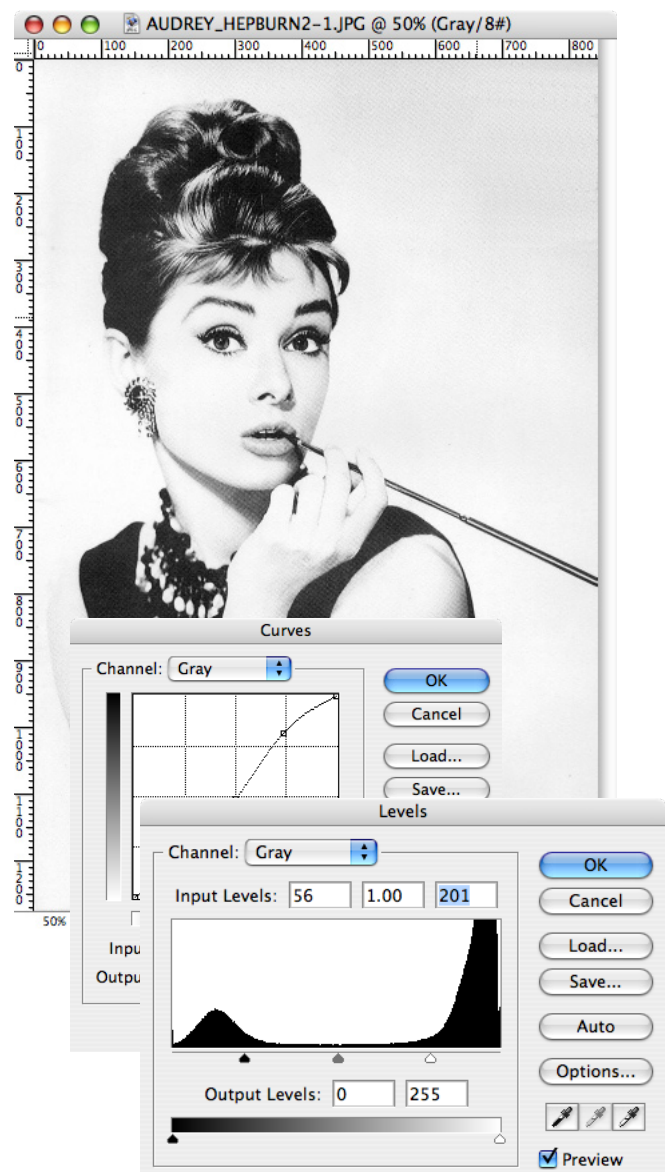To increase the contrast using levels, all you have to do is pull the sliders in towards each other.

For Curves go to Image>Adjustments>Curves
or use the keyboard shortcut"Command/Control+M"

To increase the contrast using curves, create anchor points by clicking on the graph, then pull them up or down accordingly. The image will lighten as you move upwards and to the right, and darken as you move downwards to the left.

Don't skip the contrast part, because this is what is going to give the image detail once you turn it into a "painting."

To turn the image into a silkscreeny-painting type thing, you will use the underrated "Cut Out" filter.
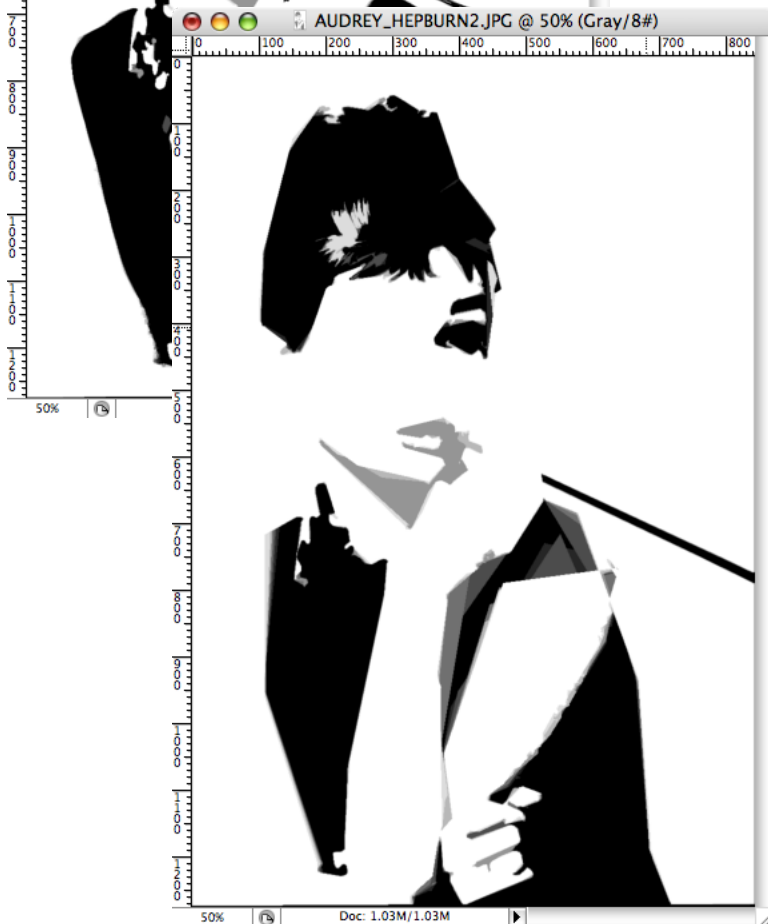
Go to Filter>Artistic>Cut Out

Use the following settings:

Number of levels: 8
Edge simplicity: 3
Edge fidelity: 3

Feel free to experiment and do what looks right for your picture.

To go one step further, if you want to go with a more Cubist look, try these settings [for the most part, you want to lower the edge fidelity and increase the edge simplicity].

Number of levels: 8
Edge simplicity: anything between 7-10
Edge fidelity: 2

Now, you're ready to project this image onto a canvas and be on your way to become an "artiste."

[Top: Finished Audrey, Bottom: Cubist Audrey]