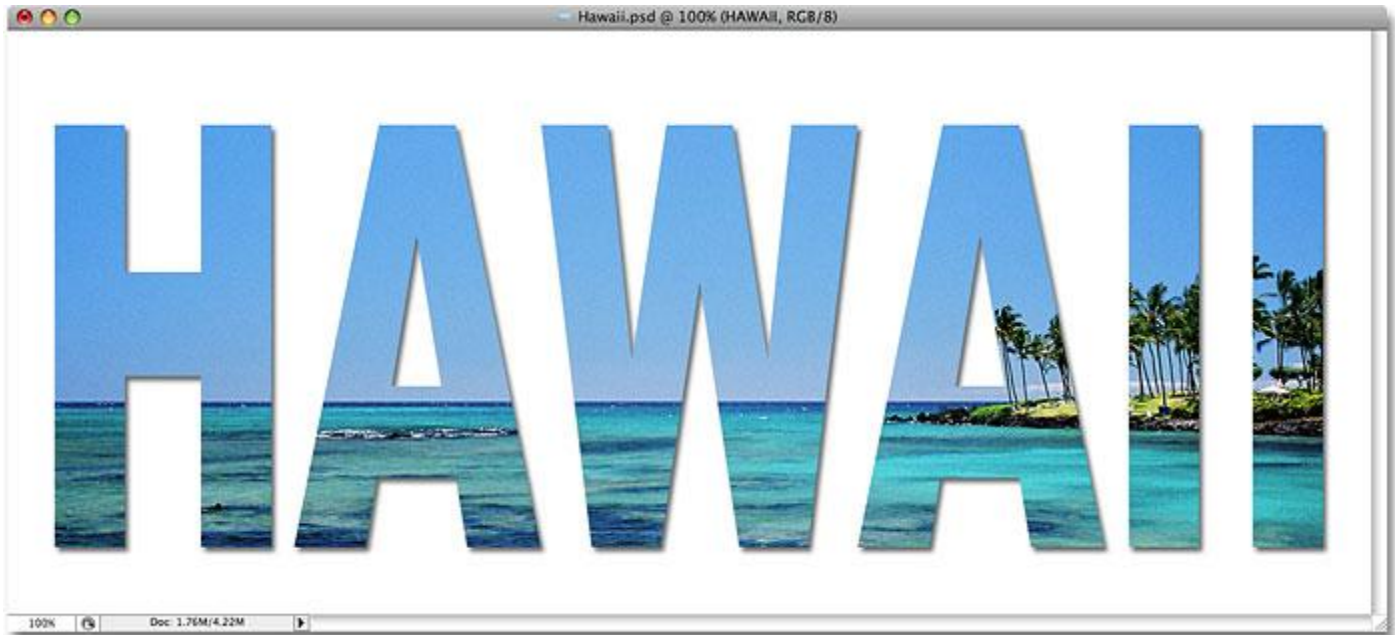




The final "image in text" effect.

How To Place An Image In Text

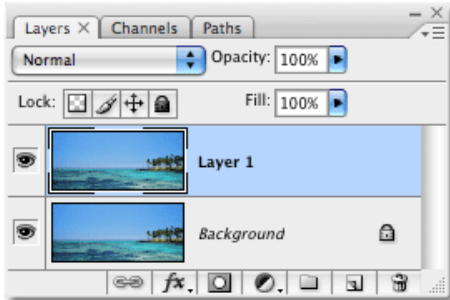
Step 1: Open A Photo To Place Inside Your Text

First, we need the image that we're going to place inside of our text. I'll use this panoramic photo of Hawaii:



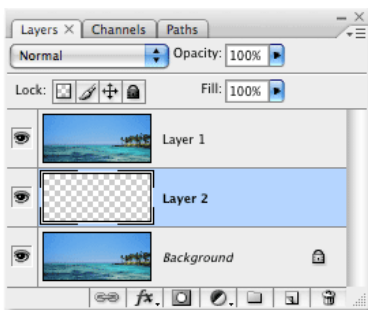
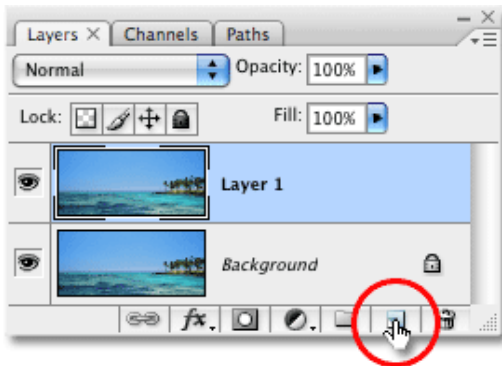
Step 2: Duplicate The Background Layer

If we look in the Layers palette, we can see that we currently have one layer, named *Background*. This layer contains our image. We need to duplicate this layer, and the easiest way to do that is by using the keyboard shortcut **Ctrl+J** (Win)



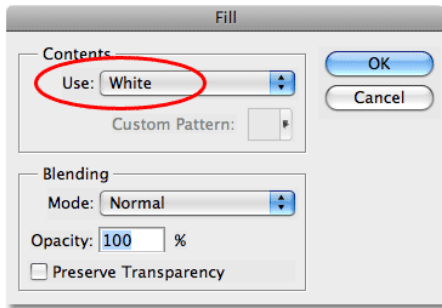
Step 3: Add A New Blank Layer Between The Two Layers

Next, we need to add a new blank layer between the Background layer and "Layer 1". Currently, "Layer 1" is the layer that's selected in the Layers palette. We can tell which layer is selected because the selected layer is always highlighted in blue. Normally, when we add a new layer, Photoshop places the new layer directly above whichever layer is currently selected, which means that Photoshop would place the layer above "Layer 1". That's not what we want. We want the new layer to be placed *below* "Layer 1". We will need to drag it to where we want it placed.

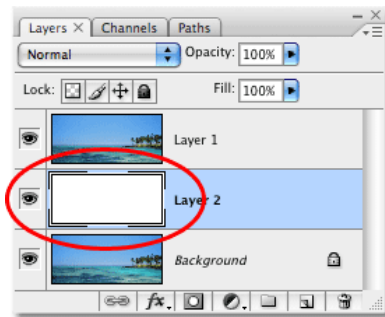


Step 4: Fill The New Layer With White

At the moment, our new layer is completely blank. Let's fill it with white so it will appear as a white background after we've placed our image inside the text. Go up to the **Edit** menu at the top of the screen and choose **Fill**. This will bring up Photoshop's Fill dialog box. Select **White** for the **Contents** option at the top of the dialog box, then click OK to exit out of the dialog box:

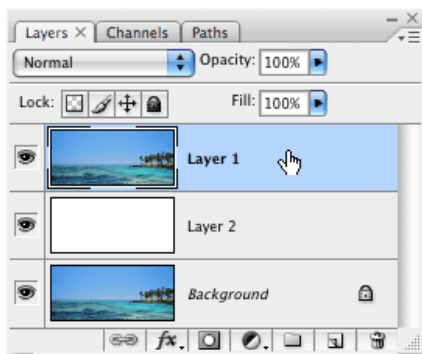


Nothing will appear to have happened in the document window, since the image on "Layer 1" is blocking "Layer 2" from view, but if we look at the layer preview thumbnail for "Layer 2" in the Layers palette, we can see that sure enough, the layer is now filled with solid white:



Step 5: Select "Layer 1" In The Layers Palette

It's time to add our text, but in order to see the text when we add it, we'll need to have the text appear above "Layer 1", otherwise the image on "Layer 1" will block the text from view. To make sure we can see our text, click on "Layer 1" in the Layers palette to select it. This way, as soon as we begin typing, Photoshop will create a new type layer for us and place the type layer directly above "Layer 1":



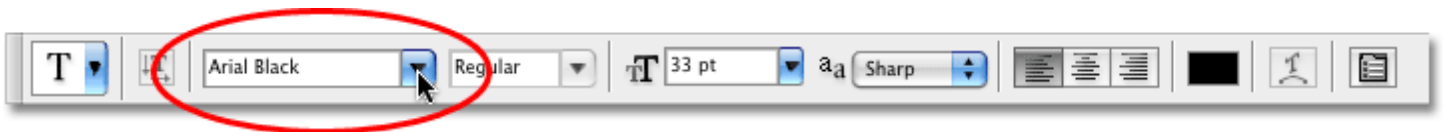
Step 6: Select The Type Tool

To add the text, we'll need Photoshop's **Type Tool**, so select the Type Tool from the Tools palette.



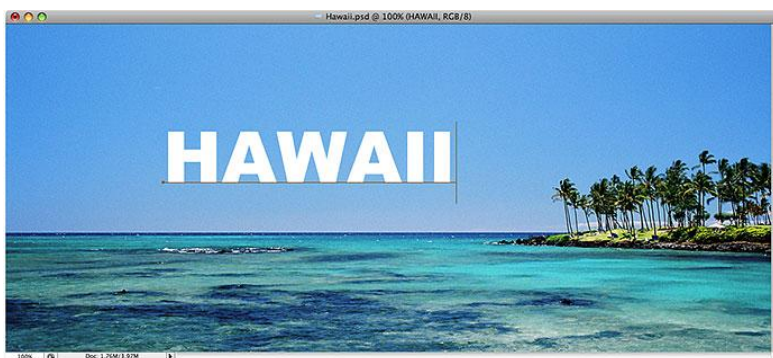
Step 7: Choose A Font In The Options Bar

With the Type Tool selected, go up to the **Options Bar** at the top of the screen and choose whichever font you want to use for the effect. Generally, fonts with thick letters work best. I'm going to choose Arial Black. Don't worry about the font size for now:



Step 8: Add Your Text

With the Type Tool selected, your font chosen and white as your Foreground color, click inside your document window and add your text. Since I'm using a photo of an ocean scene in Hawaii, I'm going to type the word "HAWAII":



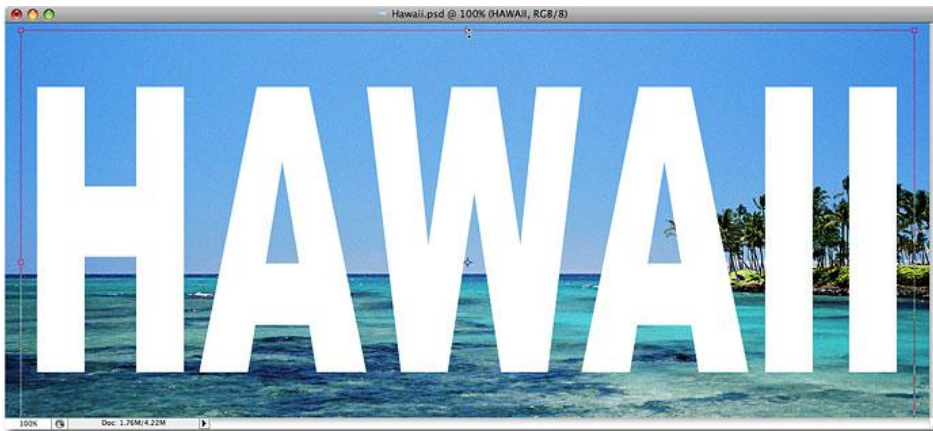
When you're done, click on the **checkmark** up in the Options Bar to accept the text.



Click on the check mark in the Options Bar to accept the text.

Step 9: Resize and Reposition The Text With The Free Transform Command

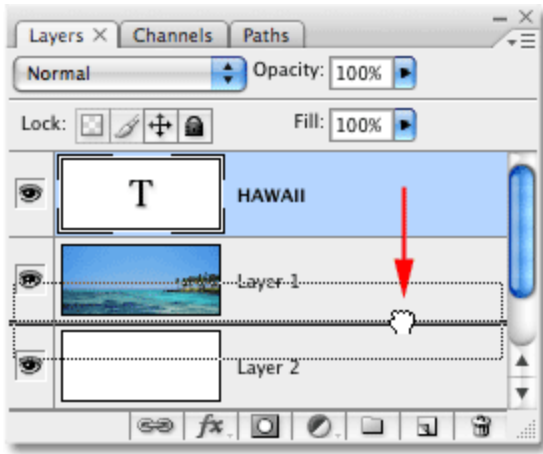
You'll probably need to resize and reposition your text at this point, and we can do both of those things using Photoshop's **Free Transform** command. Press **Ctrl+T** (Win) on your keyboard to bring up the Free Transform box and handles around your text, then drag any of the handles to resize the text. If you want to resize the text without distorting the look of it, hold down your **Shift** key and drag any of the four corner handles



Press **Enter** (Win) when you're done to accept the transformation and exit out of the Free Transform command.

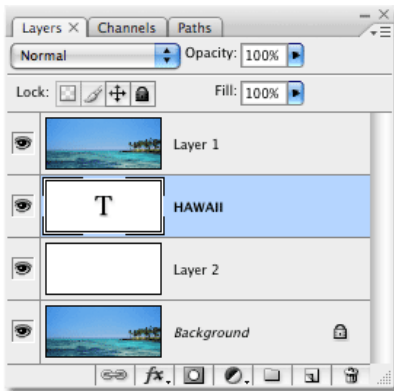
Step 10: Drag The Text Layer Below "Layer 1"

Now that we have our text the way we want it, we need to move the type layer below the text in the Layers palette. Click on the text layer, then simply drag it down below "Layer 1". You'll see a thick black line appear between "Layer 1" and "Layer 2":



Drag the type layer below "Layer 1".

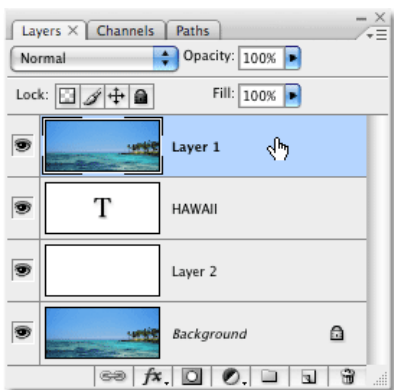
Release your mouse button when the black line appears to drop the type layer into place between "Layer 1" and "Layer 2":



The type layer now appears between "Layer 1" and "Layer 2".

Step 11: Select "Layer 1" Again

Click once again on "Layer 1" in the Layers palette to select it:



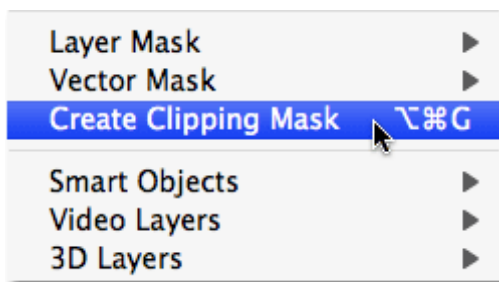
The type layer now appears between "Layer 1" and "Layer 2".

The text will temporarily disappear inside the document window now that the image on "Layer 1" is blocking it from view.

Step 12: Create A Clipping Mask

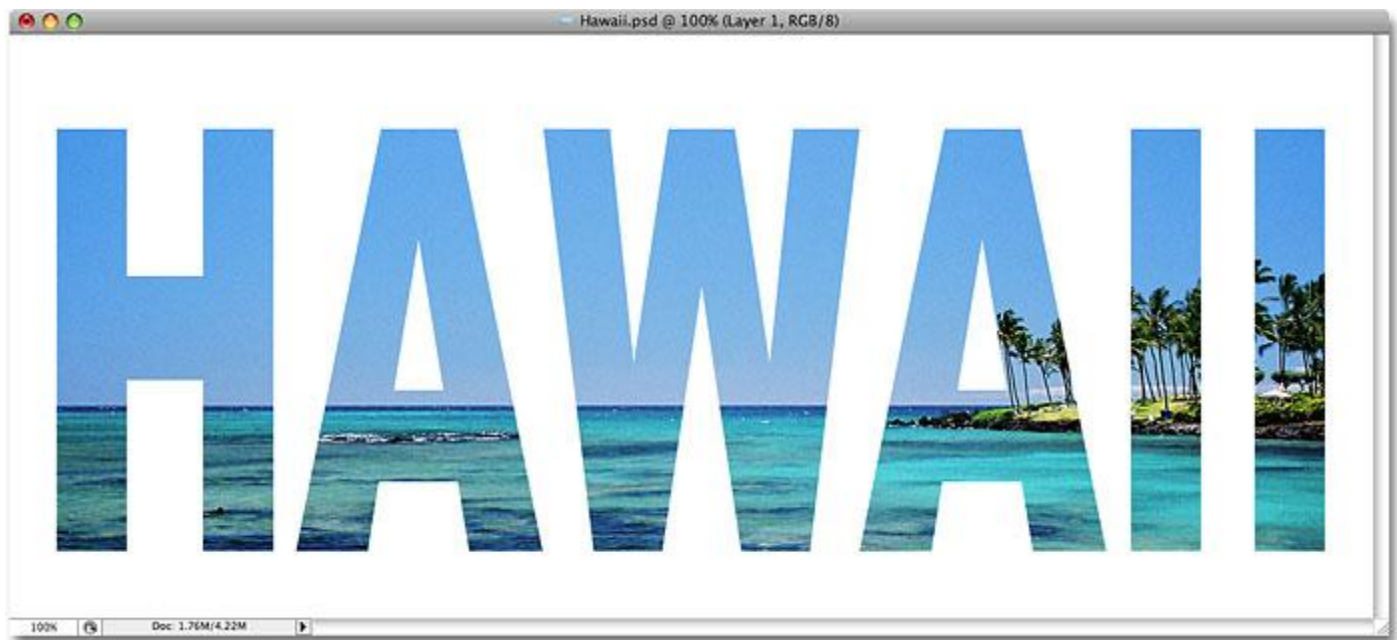
To create the illusion that the photo is inside the text, we need to use a **clipping mask**. This will "clip" the photo on "Layer 1" to the text on the layer directly below it. Any areas of the photo that appear directly above the letters will remain visible in the document. The rest of the photo will disappear from view.

With "Layer 1" selected in the Layers palette, go up to the **Layer** menu at the top of the screen and choose **Create Clipping Mask**:



Go to **Layer > Create Clipping Mask**.

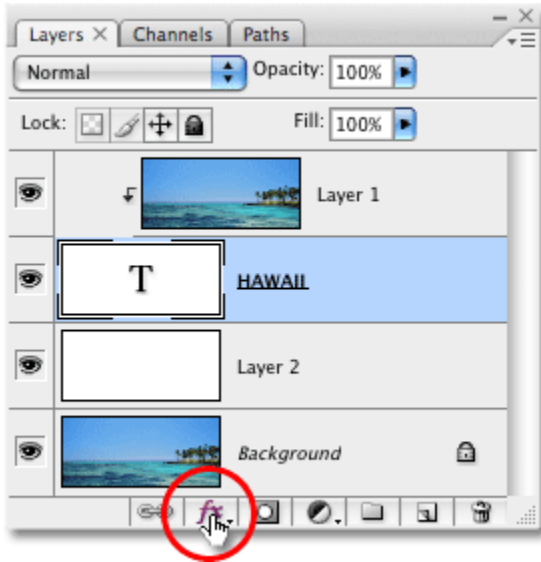
If we look in the document window, we can see that the photo now appears to be inside the text:



The photo now appears inside the letters.

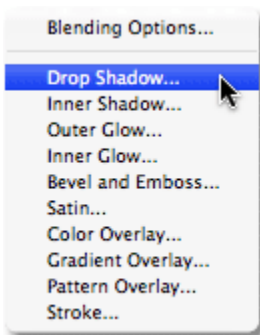
Step 13: Add A Drop Shadow (Optional)

To complete my effect, I'm going to add a drop shadow to the letters. If you want to follow along, first select the type layer in the Layers palette, then click on the **Layer Styles** icon at the bottom of the Layers palette:



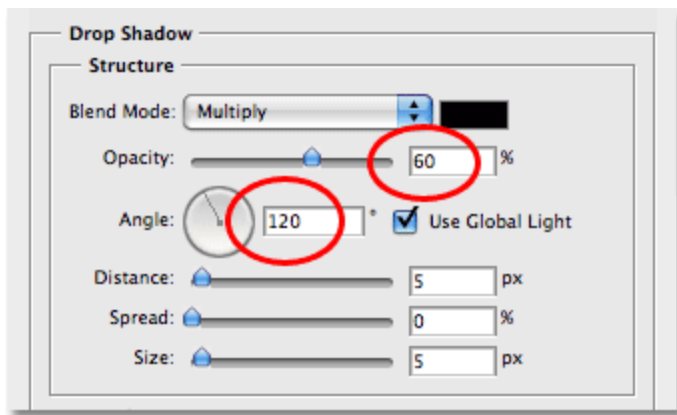
Select the type layer, then click on the Layer Styles icon.

Select **Drop Shadow** from the list of layer styles that appears:



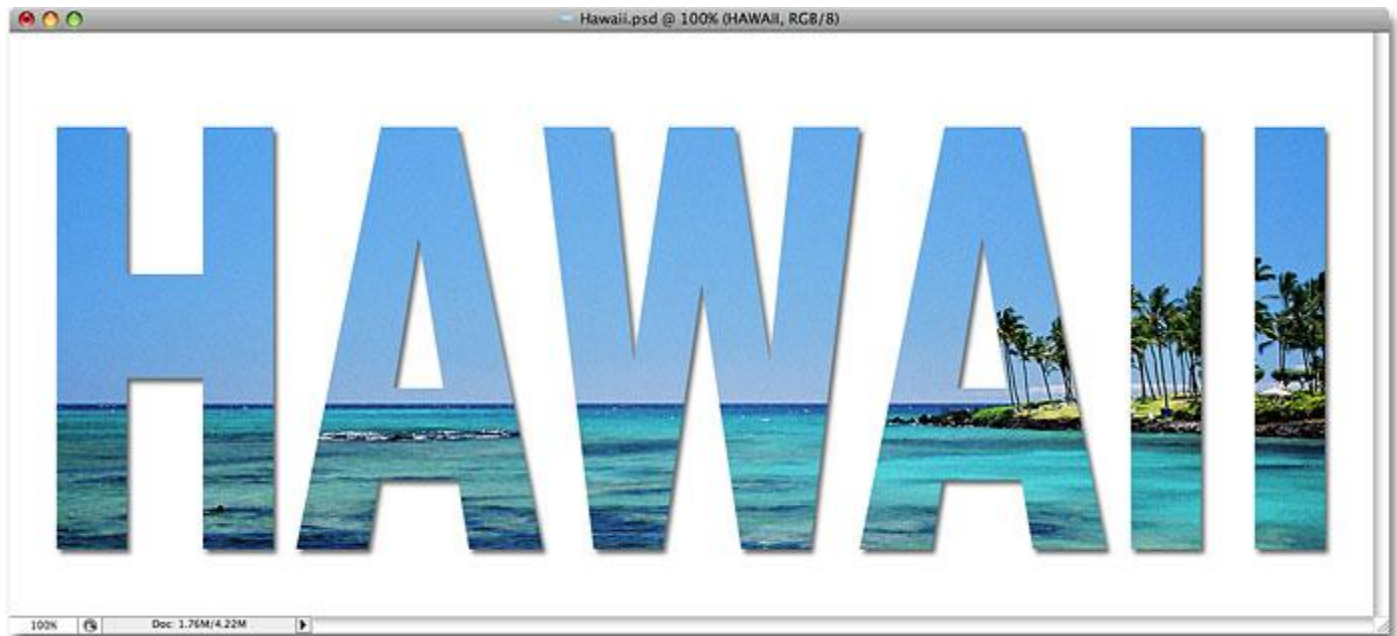
Select the Drop Shadow layer style.

This brings up Photoshop's **Layer Style** dialog box set to the **Drop Shadow** options in the middle column. I'm going to leave most of the options alone, but I'll lower the **Opacity** of the drop shadow down to about **60%** so it's not quite so intense, and I'll set the **Angle** of the drop shadow to **120°**:



The Layer Style dialog box displaying the options for the Drop Shadow.

Click OK when you're done to apply the drop shadow and exit out of the Layer Style dialog box. Here is my final "image in text" effect:



The final "image in text" effect.

Placing An Image In Text - Quick Summary

We covered a lot in this tutorial. Here's a quick summary of the steps for when you need it:

- In Photoshop, open your photo, then press **Ctrl+J** (Win) to duplicate the Background layer.
- Press and hold **Ctrl** (Win) / **Command** (Mac) and, in the Layers panel, click the **New Layer** icon to add a new blank layer between the two existing layers.
- Go up to the **Edit** menu in the Menu Bar and choose **Fill**. In the Fill dialog box, set **Use** to **White**. Click OK.
- In the Layers panel, select the top layer (Layer 1) to make it active.
- Select the **Type Tool**, then in the Options Bar, choose your font options.
- Set your **Foreground color** to **white**, then click in the document and add your text.
- Press **Ctrl+T** (Win) / **Command+T** (Mac) to select **Free Transform**, then resize and reposition your text as needed. Press **Enter** (Win) / **Return** (Mac) to exit out of Free Transform.
- In the Layers panel, drag your Type layer below the photo on Layer 1.
- Select Layer 1 to make it active, then go up to the **Layer** menu in the Menu Bar and choose **Create Clipping Mask**.
- To add a drop shadow to the text, in the Layers panel, click the "**fx**" icon, choose **Drop Shadow**, then set the **Angle** and **Opacity** as needed.