

## Color Touchup

The image at right is one where the photography setup had a significant cast of blue, which is noticeable in the image. The background color of this painting is yellow - and areas that are mostly white are showing a very definite cast of blue. This was taken outside next to a blue wall, which cast a blue reflection. The Info palette shows a high level of Cyan compared to the rest of the CMYK - remember, for a "white" area, these would all be very close to 0%, and for a whiter white, they would be balanced across the C, M & Y. If one of the trio has significantly more, then the white will be tinted blue, red or yellow.

To adjust this, one of the most familiar ways for a painter is to use the variations function, located under Image, Adjust, Variations (see middle right). This brings up a dialog box, middle left. This shows thumbnails of the image in three areas. The top shows an original image and current preview. The lower left shows the current pick in the center, and a circle of color shifts around it. The lower right has a lighter, current, and darker pick. The upper right information sets the amount of change, and the area being affected. In this case, we are adjusting the midtones. You could also select highlights or shadows. The slider bar shows fine or coarse, and this is the degree or amount of change. This image shows a coarse level, to make it really obvious how this works - looks kind of like a color wheel. Realistically, to fix this it should be set much finer. To remove the blue cast, you shift the image by selecting opposite, probably both a little more yellow and a little more red.

There are many ways to adjust color in photoshop - but this is one of the most visually obvious ones, and intuitively easy for a painter.

The image of the painting to the bottom left shows the final corrected image. But note, the bottom right image was from a photo taken with better lighting. This one is clearly the best image, and no color correction was needed. It is always better to have a proper setup, and the best equipment when shooting, and avoid using software to do touch ups.

