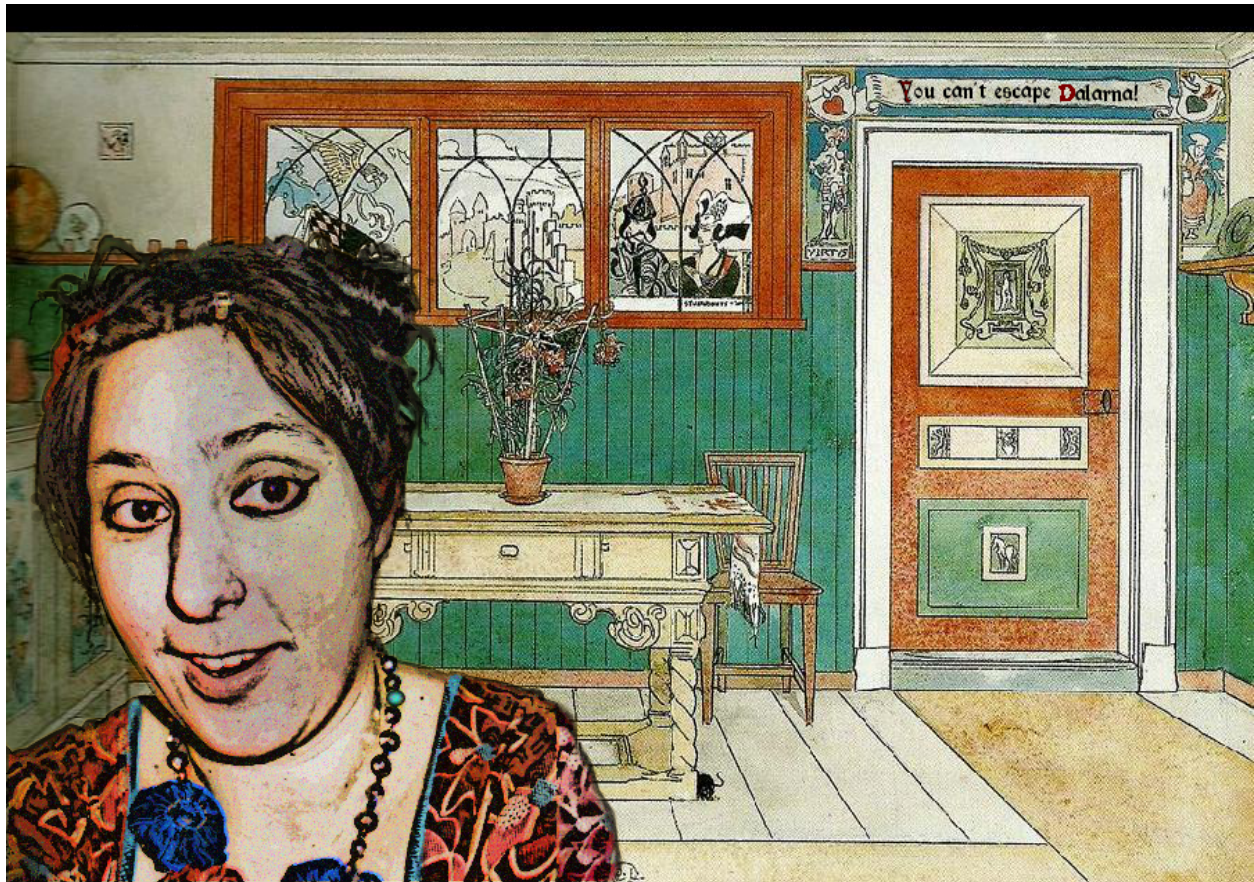


I'm Swedish and like most Swedes I have the watercolour work of Swedish national painter Carl Larsson imprinted deeply on my mind, like it or not. So, it was quite natural that his work would show up in my gimped images sooner or later. This tutorial tells how to put a picture, for example of yourself, into a Carl Larsson painting and modify it to the general style of the painter. The tutorial isn't very exact, but the thing is most of the settings depend entirely on what Carl Larsson picture and what cut-out-picture you work with - I hope I still give enough information for you to try this on your own.



First, pick out a picture by Carl Larsson that you like. The painting will be your background. Then pick out a picture to put in the painting.

Cut out picture using your favourite technique, copy it and paste as new layer in the carl larsson picture. For clarity I usually name the layer cut out.

Click alpha to selection, make new layer. I would name that layer something like noise.

Fill layer with white.

Click filters > noise > rgb noise.

Click "colour to alpha" to remove white background.

Set layer mode to grain merge. This noiselayar makes your cut-out blend in better with the aquarelle style, which is often a bit grainy.

Go back and select the original cut-out layer, duplicate layer, click desaturate. I would name this layer something like contour or bw.

Click filters > artistic > cartoon. Exact settings depend on original picture, for my picture i used mask radius 14 and percent black 0.65.

Toy with colours > curves until you get well defined contours.

If needed, work a bit with the clone and smudge tool on the bw layer to remove excessive speckling.

Select the original layer. click alpha to selection, shrink selection by 2 pixels, click invert selection and press delete.

Go back and select contour/bw layer. Set layer mode to hard light and play with the opacity level til you get something that blends in well with the background picture. The bw layer will give your picture a contour that imitates the pencilled edges in a Carl > Larsson painting.

Select the original cut-out layer again. Play around with colour balance, saturation and luminance until your cut out harmonizes well enough with the background painting.

Select bw layer again and click posterize. Pull the slider up and down til your cut out gets a more painted look.

There is an optional step that i like to use but that you can do very well without, it's all according to taste. I select the contour layer, click alpha to selection, then feather the selection by two pixels. I then make a new layer. I select the background layer with the painting and use the eye dropper to explore the background painting and pick a light shade. If the overall colour temperature in the background painting is warm I pick a warm shade, if it is cold I will pick a cooler shade. Fill selection with the new foreground colour and move the layer down, it should be right above the background painting. I pull down the layer opacity til around 25 percent. The result gives my cut out a bit more definition and makes your dark grey contours look like they're bleeding better into the colours of the background painting. Like i said before, this is an optional step. Sometimes it doesn't make enough difference to the resulting image for me to bother, sometimes it gives that magic touch that makes the result perfect.

For my tutorial image i used:

- Carl Larsson painting 'Matsalen' 'The Dining room' that I shamelessly stole from here: [Carl Larsson's Matsalen](#)
- Photo of me taken by my then 2-year old goddaughter. The picture does nothing for my vanity but I still love it because I think it reflects the relation I have with little J.

(If you look up the painting on the web or in a book you will see I exchanged the original French motto "Bien faire et lasser dire" for my own motto "You can't escape Dalarna!" I was brought up in the province of Dalarna, which is where Carl Larsson lived and worked most of his life and just like Carl Larsson I find the province gets in my blood whether I like it or not.)