

Botanical Blends Collection

Introduction.

Thank you for purchasing the Botanical Blends Collection. This collection is the latest Photoshop action release from Michelle Kane that truly acts as an extension to the HeARTy Action Bundle Set. For those photographers looking to create one-of-a-kind, custom art with their images, the Botanical Blends Collection is a perfect addition to their Photoshop workflow. If you enjoy using the tones and delicates from the Creative HeART set, you will love the look and feel that the Botanical Blends Collection lends your photographs.

The Botanical Blends Collection was created to give photographers the tools to help them not only polish their images, but to also create a variety of finishes. Whether you like a colorful rich edit with a hint of soft, matte film, or a nostalgic and romantic airy feel to your photographs, Botanical Blends provide you with the necessary tools needed to accomplish your artistic vision. They will help you infuse color tones, hazes and matte finishes into your photographs. Many of the actions create a lighter haze effect, while others are straight color tones with no haze. Using the Botanical Blends tones along with the Wholesome Grain action, you can easily recreate the nostalgic look of film. Each action was crafted so you, as the artist, have full control over the effects by opening the action group to alter the layer opacities and visibility, thus creating completely new tones from within the main tone.

You will find that the Botanical Blends actions combine nicely together to create new and interesting tones. The visual effects of the actions will appear different based on whether the photograph has an overall light or dark exposure. I recommend that you experiment with the actions on a variety of photographs from bright to dark, to studio to natural light, as the actions will give you different and unexpected looks to boost your artistic creativity and help you create just the right mood for your photographs.

Actions in the *Light + Dark*, *Contrast + Shadows*, and *Clarity Boosts* sets will aid you in adding extra detail and punch to your photos. You may find that a toning action produces too much softness and haze for your taste. Playing actions from the Light + Dark and Contrast + Shadows sets, either before or after such a tone, can help bring back definition and boost overall contrast. The effects will vary, depending upon what order you choose to play the actions. Experimentation is the key to learning how to best combine them for your particular style.

The Botanical Blends Collection does not replace the extremely versatile HeARTy Collections, but rather serves as a collection of tones and finishes to compliment and accompany the HeARTy actions. Please continue to use the HeARTy actions to edit your photos, and think of the Botanical Blends as an extension of the delicates and

tones sections of the Creative HeART set. All Michelle Kane actions work together to give you the most versatile, adjustable, and creative editing tools to help you produce truly one-of-a-kind artwork.

For more information on Michelle Kane actions and resources for photographers and photo editors, please visit www.michellekanephoto.com. The photo editing blueprints, tutorial videos and informative articles are a free service to inspire and help you as you evolve in your craft.

Compatibility.

Macintosh or Windows Platforms
Adobe Photoshop CS2 and higher.

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Installing and Playing the Actions.

1. Begin by unzipping the .zip file from your download. You can do this by either double clicking the .zip file or right clicking on the .zip file and choosing extract all.
2. Move the action files to a secure place on your computer. You might consider backing them up to CD or another location, in case you ever need to reload them.
3. In Photoshop, click the right arrow in the layers palette and from the drop down menu, select load actions.
4. Navigate to the spot on your computer where you saved the actions and click load or open. Alternatively, you can locate the action files where you saved them on your computer and either double click them or click & drag them to the Photoshop application. They will automatically populate in the Actions Palette.
5. To play an action, simply select the desired action from the Action Palette and hit the triangle button located at the bottom of the palette. If working in button mode, simply click the desired action's colored button.

How Actions Work.

The Layers Palette functions from the bottom up. Actions are built the same way. The individual action adjustment layers or grouped actions will function from the bottom up. When clicking play on an action, it will begin the action steps on top of the last selected visible layer. It's best to play actions on the top-most layer in the layers palette so they will be properly grouped and easily adjustable after playing. Actions that are grouped together in a folder have internal layers that can be adjusted by either turning their

visibility on or off, changing the opacities or masking them on or off the image using the attached layer masks.