

Rotoscoping

It will often be necessary to put a digital element behind a real filmed element in the plate photography. For example imagine a character on set walking in front of a background and the visual effect is to be added so that it appears to be between the background and the character. In order to cut out the real character a roto artist will have to draw around the character on every frame to make a matte that the compositor can use to put the real element back over the top of the CG part of the shot so that everything appears to be layered in the correct order. Some shots will be filmed in front of a blue or green screen, in which case it may be possible to pull a key and create a matte that way. For circumstances where the key cannot be pulled, or there is no greenscreen, roto-scoping is the only way to create the mattes that the compositor will need to finish the shot. Juniors who want to be compositors often start out as roto artists.

