California State University, Sacramento
College of Arts and Letters

Department of Design   www.csus.edu/design

GPHD 10, Section 2   Spring 2004
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Project #3:   Simple masking   Due: Wednesday, March 17

Project description: The purpose of this assignment is to practice using Illustrator's masking capability to create
                         snappy graphics – and then make a PDF of our work for distribution.

Instructions: 1.) Using the Pen tool in Illustrator, draw the figures listed below in outline:
                             • a bird;
                             • a cat;
                             • a cow;
                             • a dog;
                             • a fish;
                             • and an animal of your choice;
                             …for a total of six figures.
                         2.) Each object should be fill=Black; stroke=0. Draw closed paths and fill them with Black.
                             Do not put a stroke on the object.
                         c.) Now, create text to overlap each item. Use the animal's name or a descriptive word as
                             the text. See the examples on the back of this sheet.
                         d.) Convert the text to paths. Copy the text paths. Paste the text paths in front (cmd+F). Fill
                             the text paths with White. Shift select to add the animal path to your selection. Create
                             a Clipping mask of your selection.
                         e.) Lay out your six items on one 8.5"x 11" Illustrator page. Add a text description of the
                             steps you used to create the graphics to your Illustrator layout.
                         f.) Save your Illustrator file in .ai format. Name the file using the class and section number,
                             the project number and your name in the document title.
                         g.) Save your file as a .pdf file.
                         h.) Email the completed .pdf to the instructor: solling@csus.edu.

                         …for fun, try using different percentages of Black as a fill for the different objects created.
                             Enjoy!

GPHD 10_02 project 3 example items:

fish

frog

ferret

. . . the extra mile: incorporating a tinted text item:

chomp!