

The Destruction of the First Temple - Start to Completion



Figure 1: Starting Image

I love to take pictures on Trips that I take because it gives me fresh material for artistic exploration. Another thing I love to do is take pictures of “piles of stuff”. The random placement of things gives me a great composition to work with. My starting Image here is of a basket full of souvenir Jewish menorahs I found in a gift shop in Jerusalem. I took me some preliminary trials to get something that really worked so here is what I came up with.

Step 1 – Dreamscope

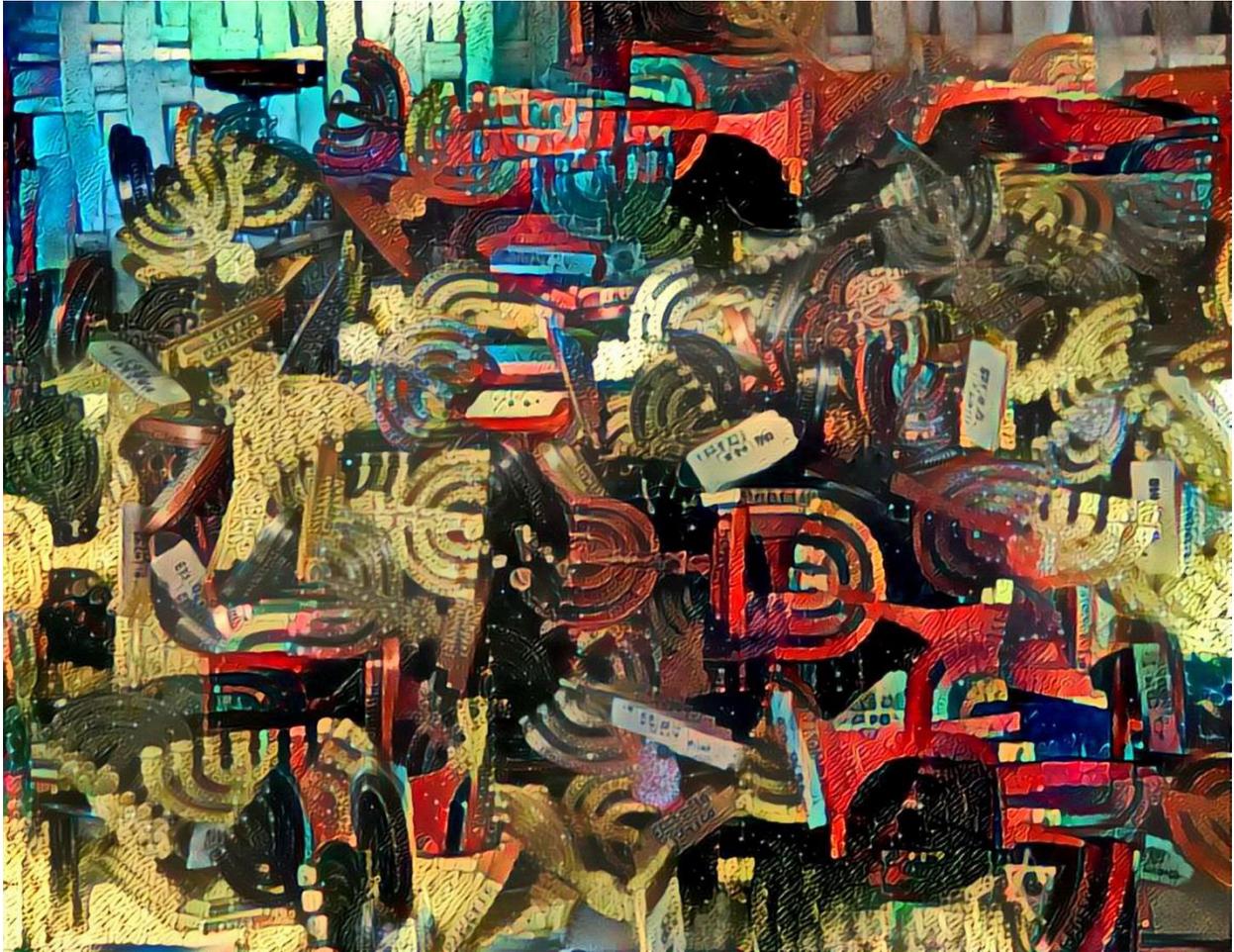


Figure 2: Dreamscope Effect

Dreamscope is a WEB based program that does an incredible job of abstracting a photographic image. Unfortunately it is hard to say exactly *which effect* it was since it was applied using a “try this Effect” from an existing image. This is one of the big limitations of this program for producing an easy workflow. The other limitation is that the size of the image is limited to under 2000 pixels and even at that it looks pretty mushy in the details.

Step 3 – FotoSketcher



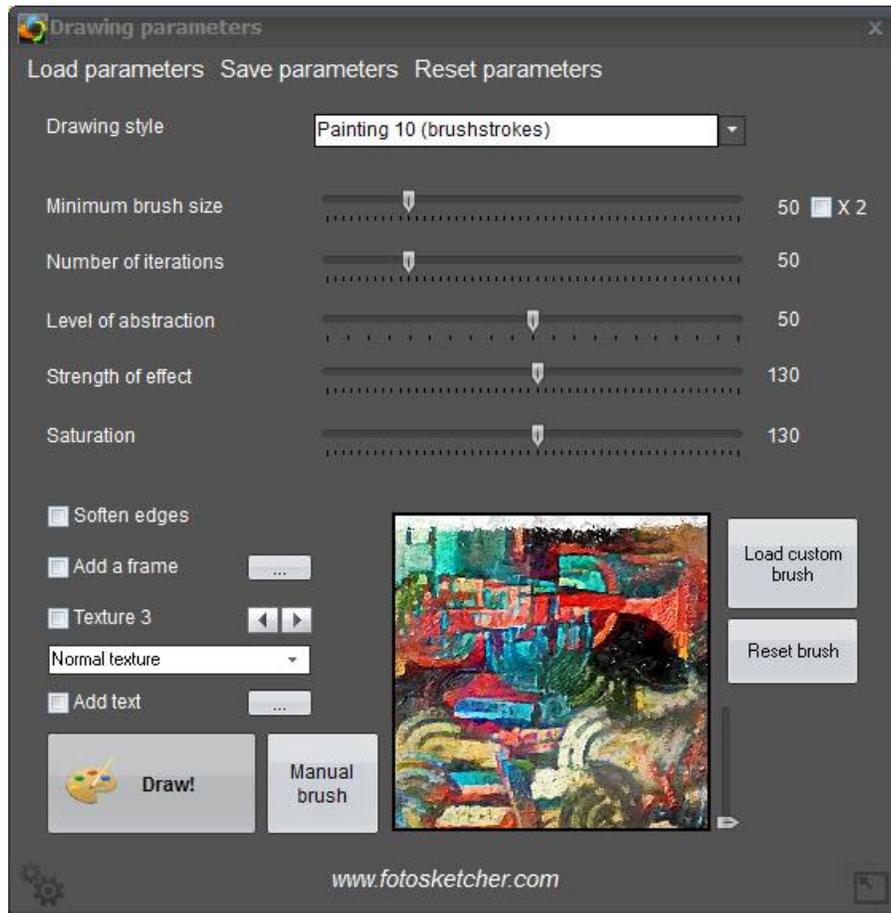
Figure 3: Starting Image for Fotosketcher

For my next step, I turned to Fotosketcher. This is a program available on the WEB for Free (*Donations Encouraged!*) that has become one of my favorites. The reason I like it is because it rebuilds the images from a series of brush templates (built in). The net result is that all the softness and pixelization from the original is cleaned up, and an overall brush look is added. To start with I cleaned up the dreamscope image a little by sharpening it and also added a ragged edge border using one of my own templates shown here.



Figure 4: border added as layer using “Lighten” composite method

In Fotosketcher I chose the Painting 10 Effect and used the default parameters.



One of the many nice features of this program is the ability to stop it and save iterations. I found that allows me to pick the best level of effect. In this case I stopped it a 6%, 25%, and 40%. My final choice was 6%. I decided to name it "Destruction of the Fist Temple" since it seemed to project that chaos and visible symbols of Judaism.



Figure 5: Final Image