



ON1 Photo RAW

**Best Practices
Workflow Guide**

Best Practices Workflow Guide

In this guide, we'll explore proven workflows for editing three distinct types of photography: landscape, wildlife, and portrait. Whether you're capturing the vastness of nature, the energy of animals, or the beauty of a human subject, ON1 Photo RAW offers powerful tools to enhance your images. We'll walk through common steps for editing each type of photo, offering practical tips to achieve polished, professional results.




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Landscape

ON1 Photo RAW Workflow





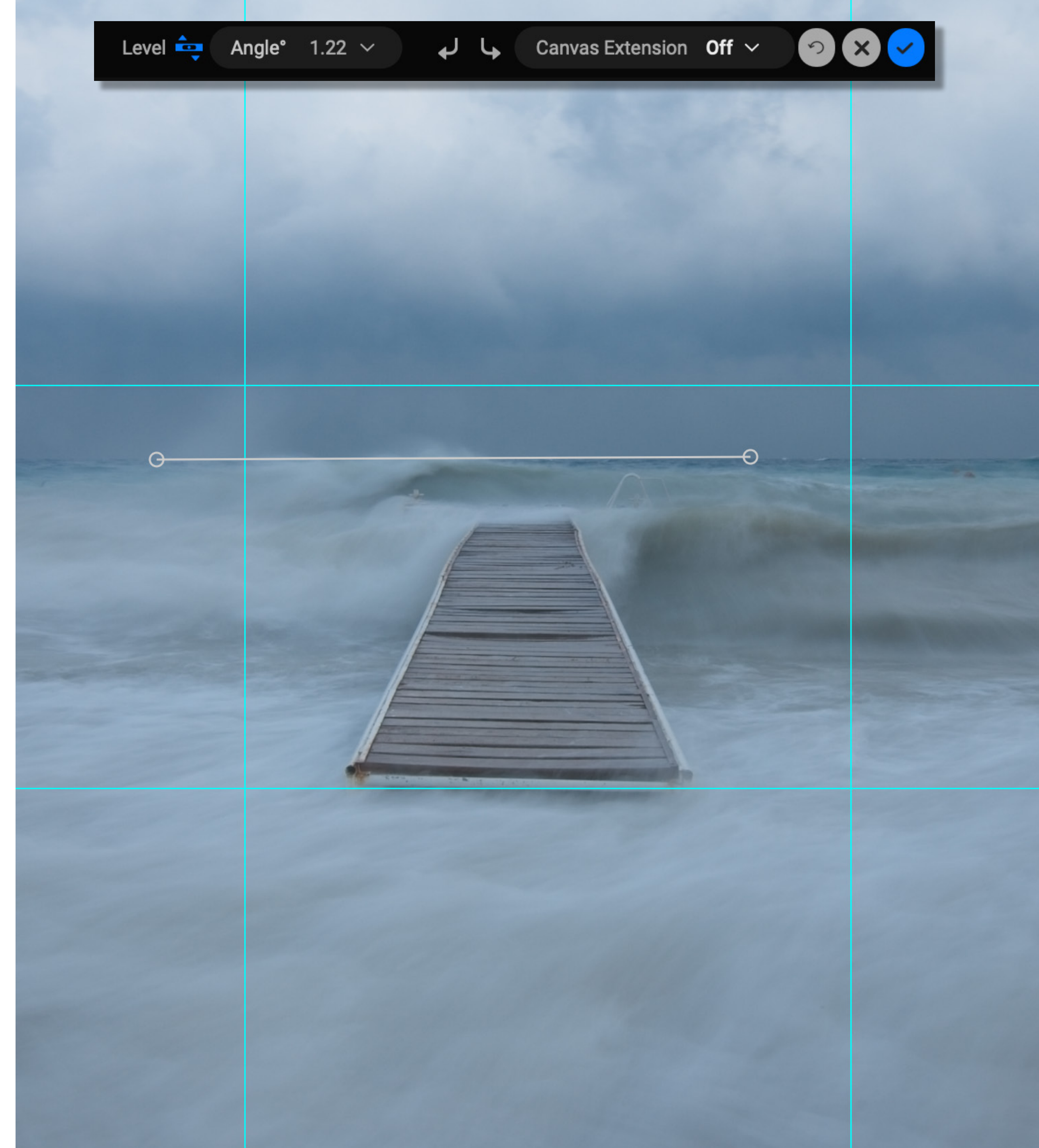
Let's begin our landscape editing journey.

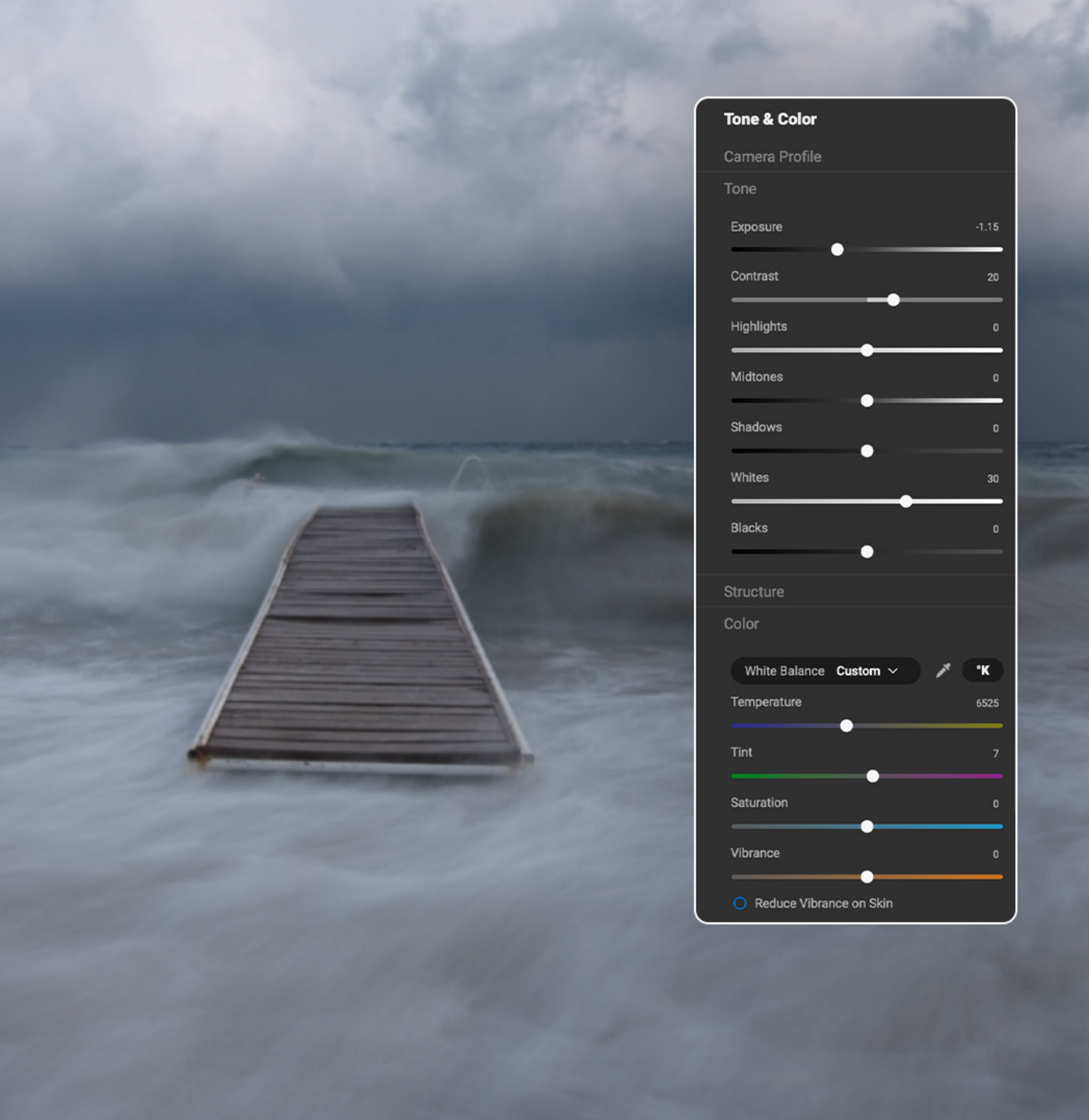
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In this landscape workflow using ON1 Photo RAW, you will begin by using the Crop Tool to straighten the horizon and improve the composition. Next, you will reduce the overall Exposure to recover details in the clouds and water, enhancing their textures. To balance the image, you will adjust the White Balance to warm up the scene, removing any cool tones. Then, you will apply Local Adjustments to separately modify the sky and water, fine-tuning their brightness or color to create more dynamic contrast. Afterward, you will add a subtle Glow to soften the image, apply Dynamic Contrast to enhance details and textures, and finish with a Vignette to subtly darken the edges, drawing attention to the center of the landscape.

Straighten

We're going to edit our photo in the Edit module. We'll start by straightening out the horizon. To straighten the horizon using the Crop Tool in ON1 Photo RAW, first select the Crop Tool from the toolbar or hit C on your keyboard. In the crop options at the top tool bar, locate the Level Tool, which you can use to straighten the image. Click on the Level Tool, then click and drag a line across the horizon within your image. This will automatically adjust and straighten the horizon for you. Once you're satisfied with the alignment, confirm the crop to lock in the changes and ensure your horizon is perfectly level.





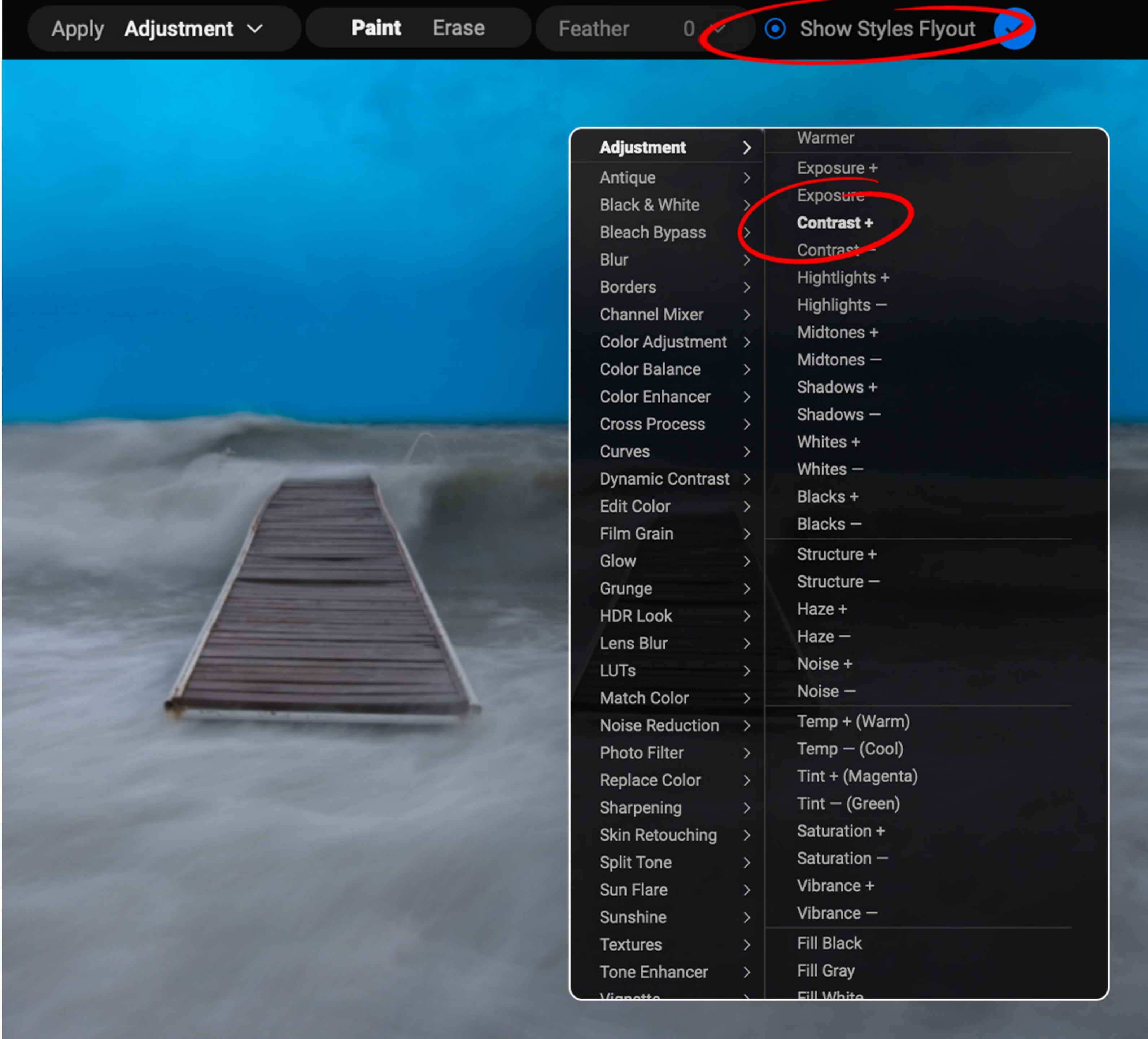
Tone & Color

In the Develop Tab, open the Tone & Color pane to begin adjusting the image. First, reduce the Exposure slider to bring back detail in the clouds and water, recovering highlights and textures. Next, increase the Contrast to avoid a flat look and enhance the depth of the image. To make certain elements pop, add some Whites, which will brighten the highlights and give the image more dimension. Finally, use the Temperature slider to warm up the overall tone, removing any coolness and giving the scene a more natural or sunset-like feel.



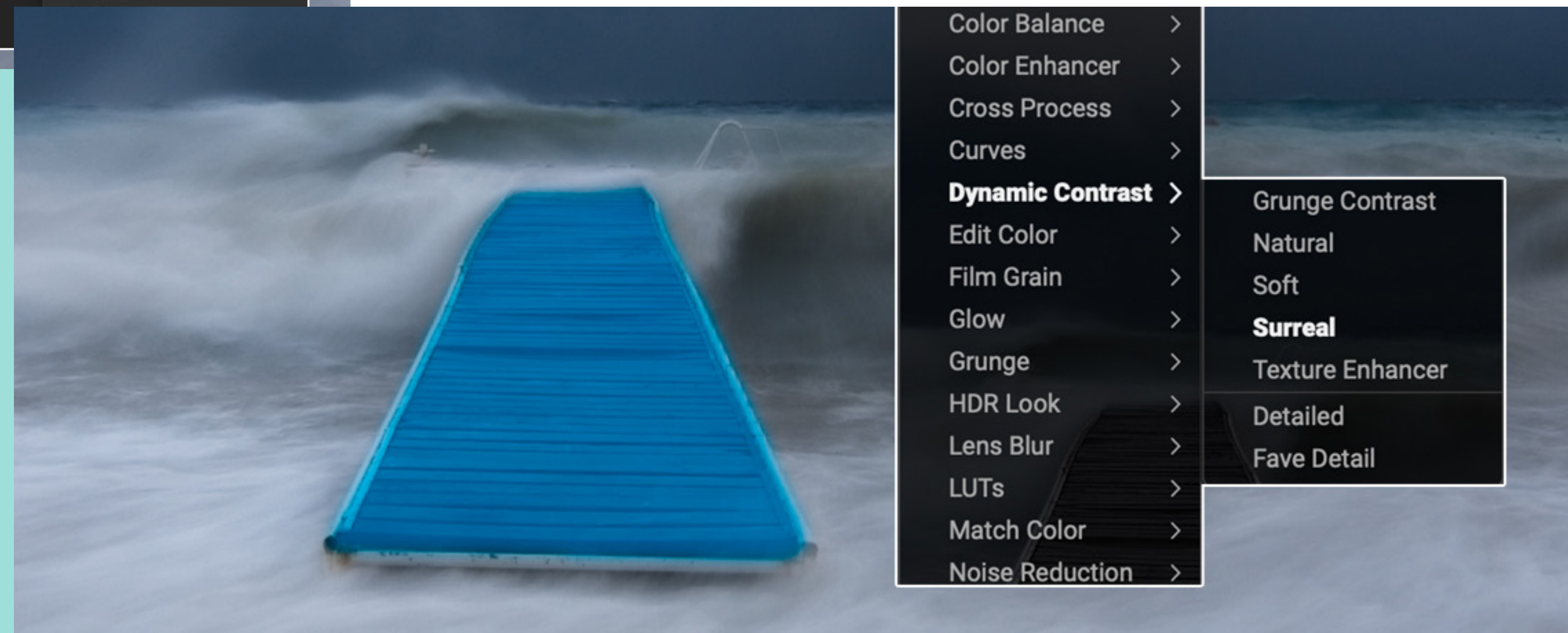
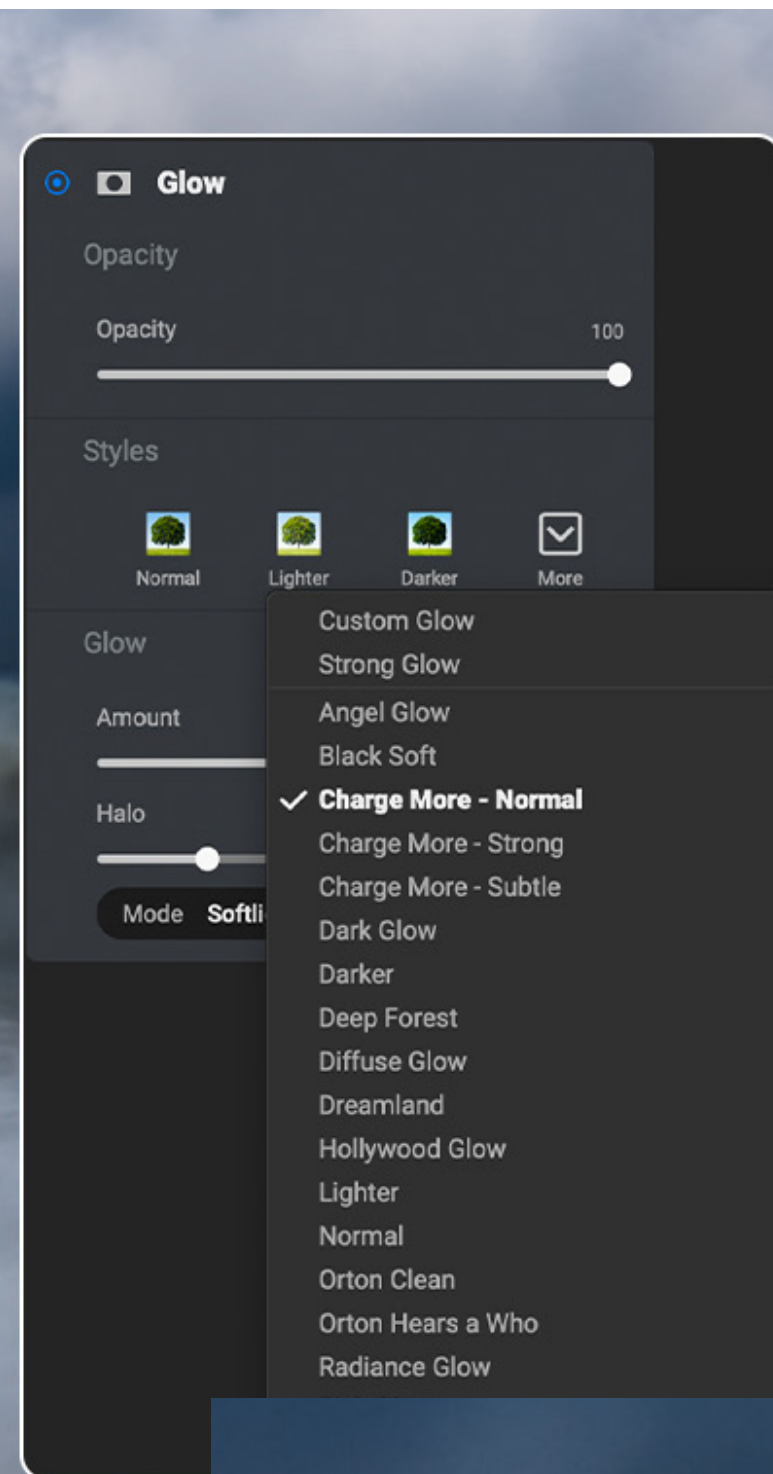
Sky and Water

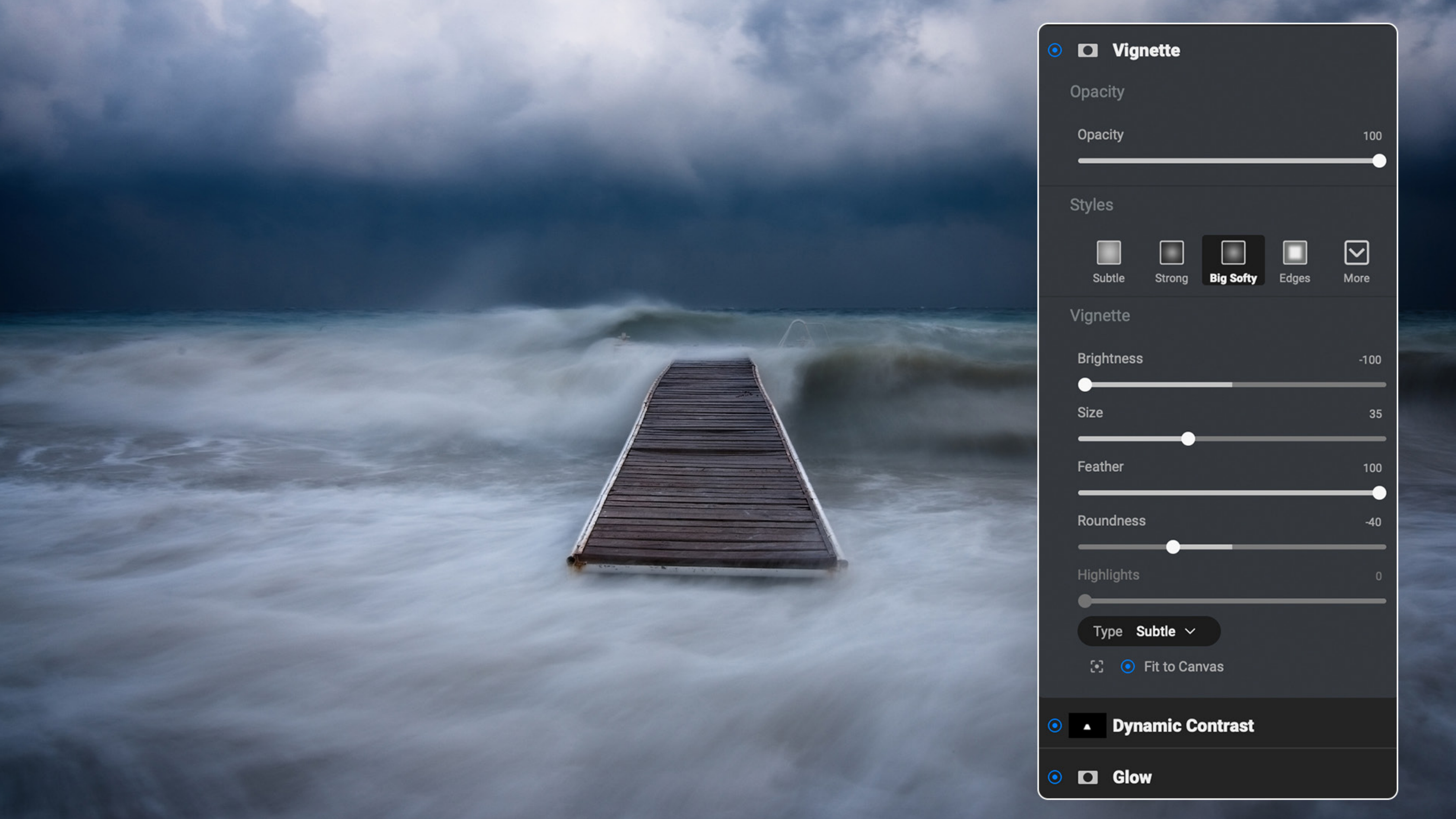
To apply local adjustments to the sky and water, begin by using Super Select AI to independently select each area. First, click on the sky. Once the sky has a blue overlay on it, secondary click and from the menu, choose Contrast + to increase the contrast, bringing more depth and definition to the clouds. Next, click on the water and select Midtones + to boost the midtones, enhancing the silky foreground scene. Lower the opacity of the midtone adjustment to 50 if it's brightening the foreground too much. To access these options, make sure to enable Show Styles Flyout from the top menu bar, which will display the preset styles like Contrast + and Midtones + for easy selection.



Style with Effects

To style your image using the Effects Tab, start by selecting Add Filter and choose Glow to give the image a soft, dreamy feel. From the styles menu, you can select Charge More - Normal, but there are many other glow styles available under the More option to fit your desired look. Next, apply Dynamic Contrast to enhance the detail in the dock floating in the stormy water. Use Super Select AI to select the dock, and in the pop-up menu, choose Dynamic Contrast followed by the Surreal style. If the effect feels too intense, lower the opacity of the filter for a more balanced look. Finally, add another filter and choose Vignette to focus attention toward the center of the image. I recommend the Big Softy style within the vignette filter, but feel free to experiment with other styles to match your vision.



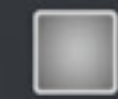


☒ ☒ **Vignette**

Opacity

Opacity 100

Styles



Subtle



Strong



Big Softy



Edges



More

Vignette

Brightness -100

Size 35

Feather 100

Roundness -40

Highlights 0

Type **Subtle** ▾

☐ ☒ Fit to Canvas

☒ ☐ **Dynamic Contrast**

☒ ☒ **Glow**

wildlife

ON1 Photo RAW Workflow

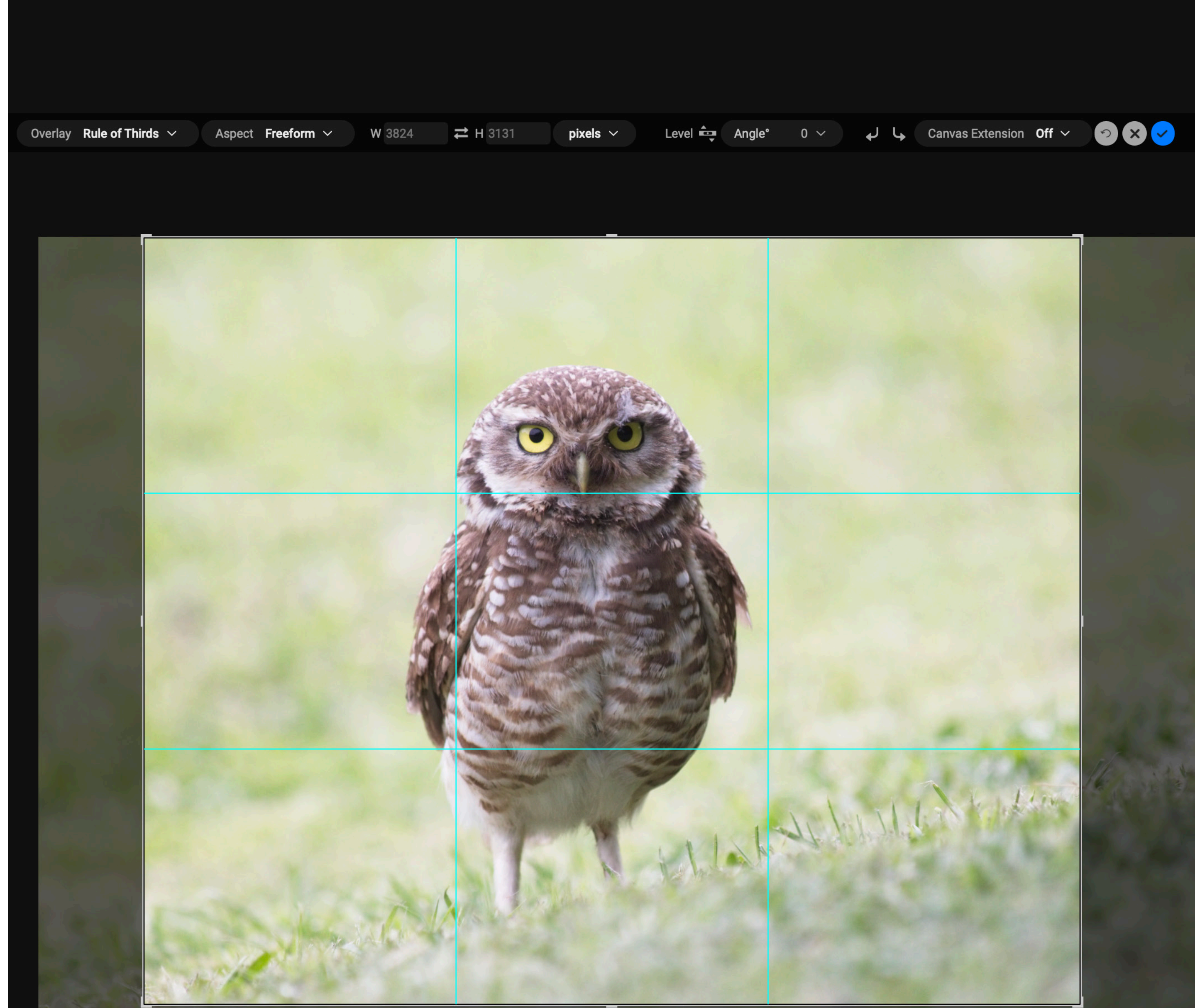


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In this wildlife editing workflow, you'll start by using the Crop Tool to zoom in on the owl, bringing it into sharp focus as the centerpiece of your shot. Then, head to the Tone & Color pane to boost the Contrast for depth and increase the Midtones to make the owl's feathers pop. For a dramatic effect, you'll apply Local Adjustments to darken the background, making the owl stand out, and brighten its shaded eye to reveal more detail. Next, use Dynamic Contrast to enhance the texture and sharpness of the owl's feathers. To further focus attention, you'll add a Vignette to subtly guide the viewer's eye toward the owl. Finally, explore the Black and White filter for a creative look on your wildlife photo.

Crop to Compose

To crop the image and ensure proper composition in ON1 Photo RAW, start by selecting the Crop Tool from the toolbar. In the top tool modifier bar, you'll find a selection of preset Aspect Ratios or you can choose Freeform to crop in any dimension that suits your image. Drag the corners or edges of the crop frame to focus on your subject, ensuring the owl is framed prominently. Use the Rule of Thirds grid to position the owl near an intersection point for balanced composition. If necessary, use the Level Tool to straighten the image. Once you're satisfied with the framing, click Apply to confirm the crop.

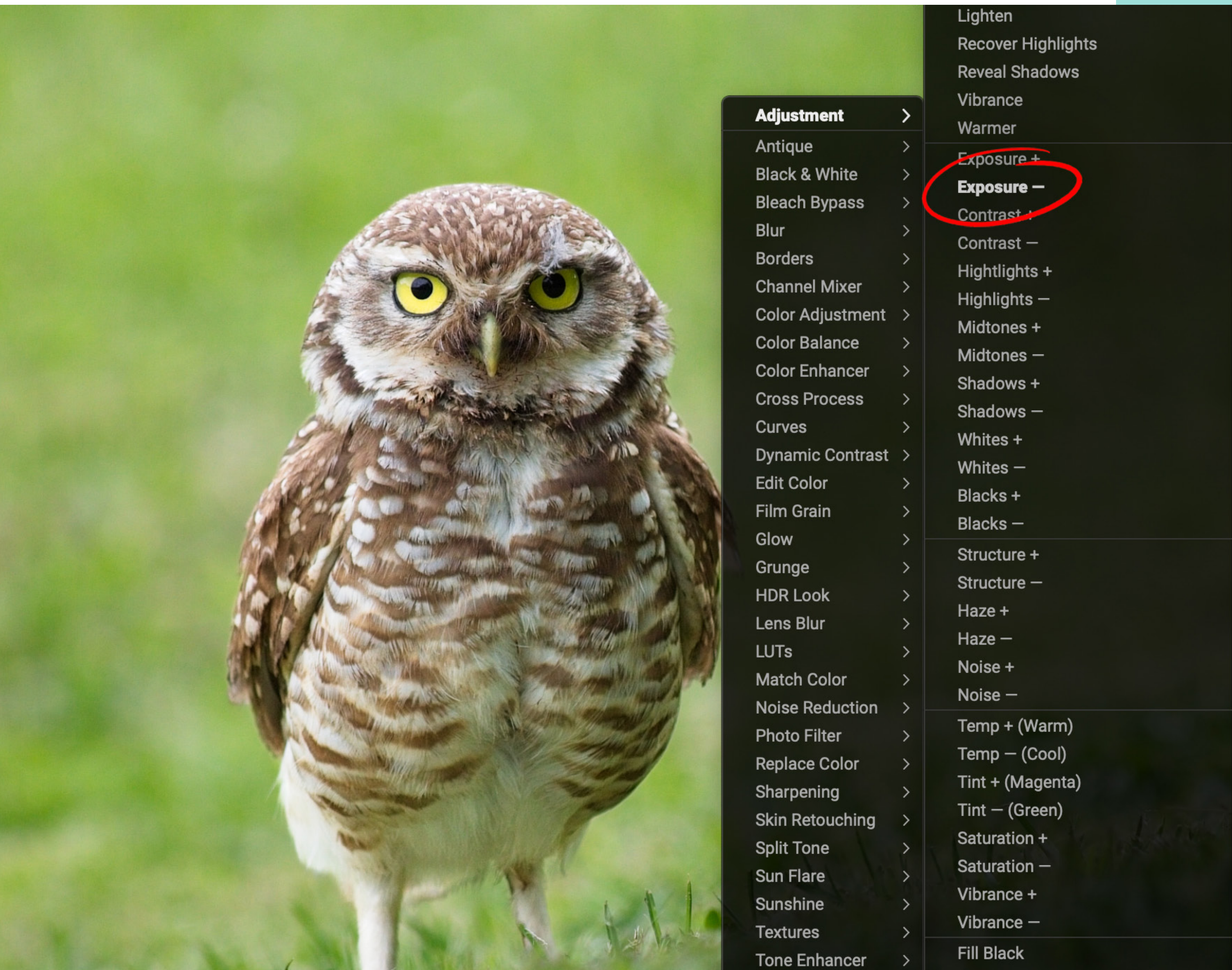




Tone & Color

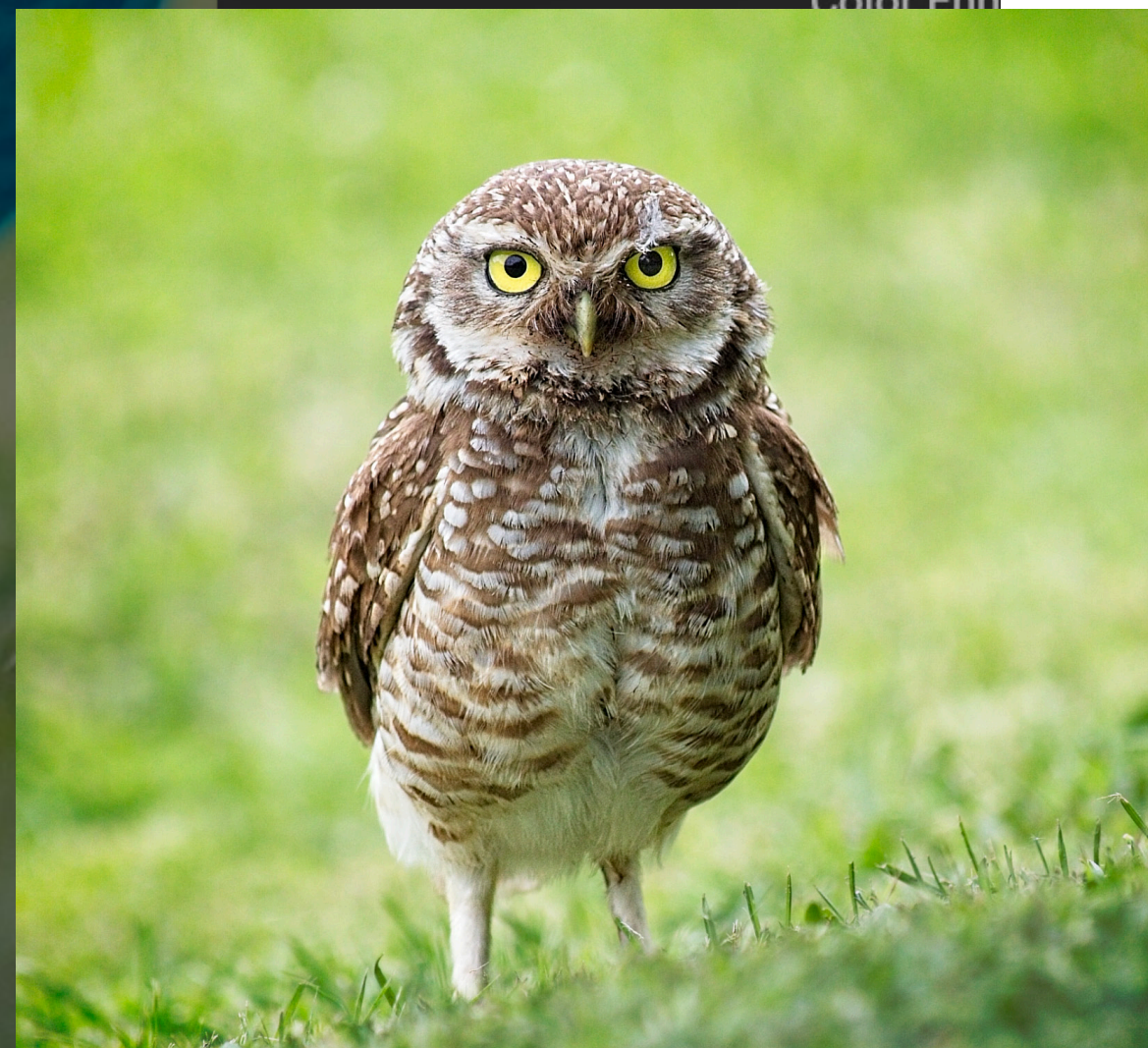
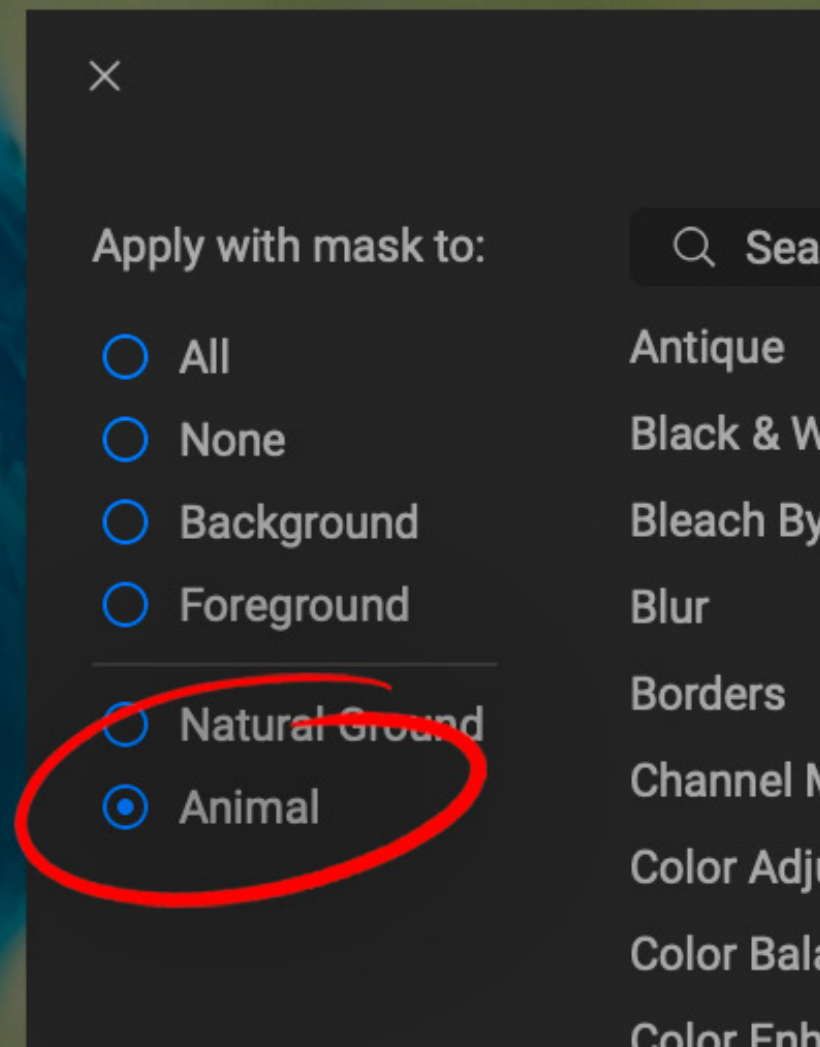
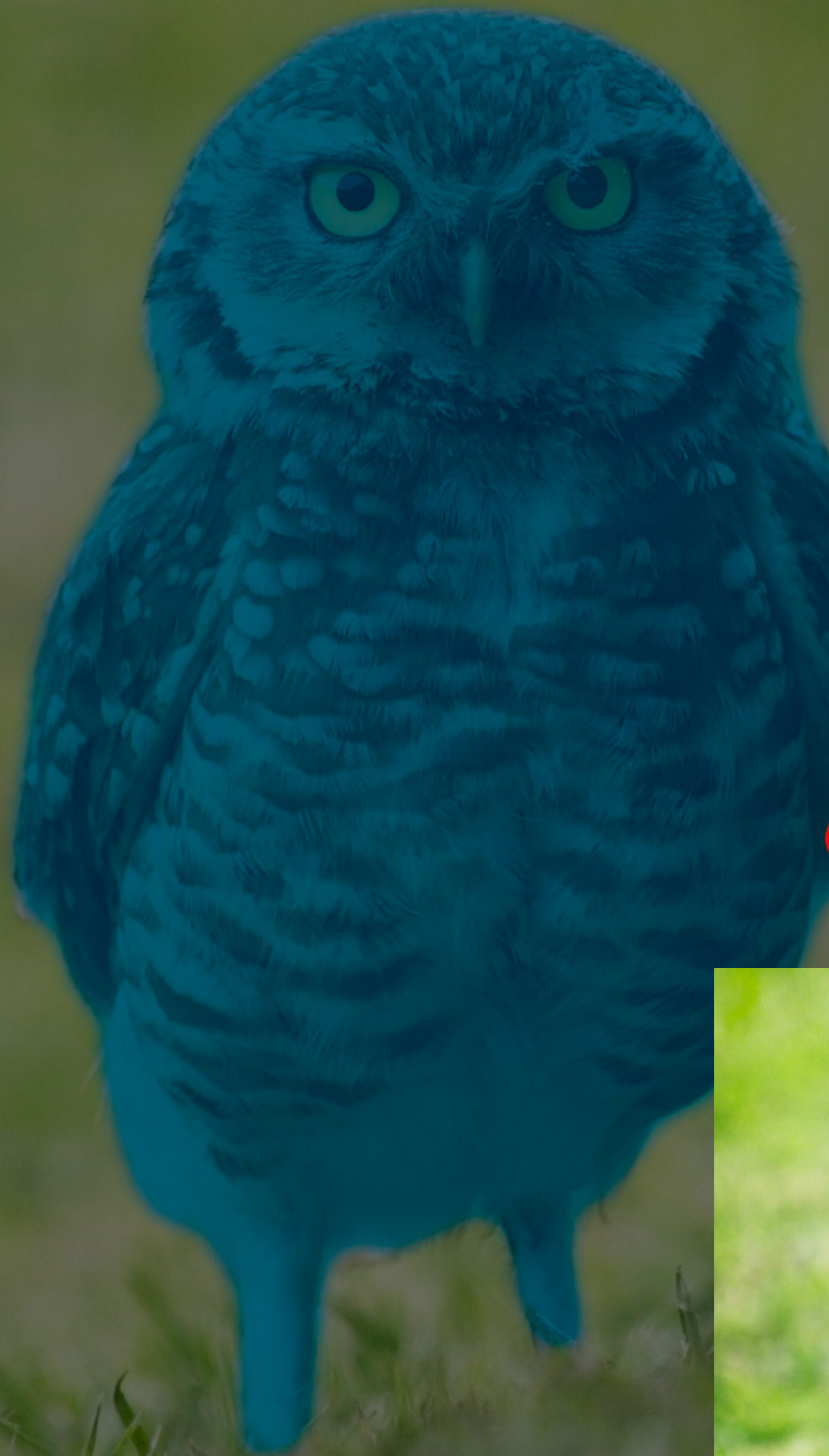
After cropping your image, it's time to develop the basic tone and color to bring out the best in your RAW file. Start by increasing Contrast to add depth and make the image stand out—this helps prevent it from looking flat and enhances the separation between highlights and shadows. Next, boost the Midtones to ensure all the important details in the middle range are visible, revealing textures and subtle elements that could otherwise be lost. Finally, increase the Vibrance to enhance the colors without oversaturating them, making your image feel more lively and balanced while maintaining a natural look. These steps will create a strong foundation for the rest of your editing process.

Local Adjustments



To darken the background and brighten the owl's shaded eye, start by using Super Select AI to select the background, then choose Adjustment > Exposure - from the pop-up menu to darken it. After that, boost the Whites slightly within the same local adjustment to ensure the background doesn't appear flat. Once the background is darkened, create a New Local Adjustment for the owl's shaded eye. Use the Masking Brush and, from the More Styles menu, select the Magic Eye Fixer. Set the Feathering to 100 for a smooth blend and adjust the brush size to about 175. Carefully paint over the shaded eye to enhance its brightness and detail. Finally, adjust the Opacity of the adjustment if needed to achieve a natural look. If needed, pull up the Midtones to brighten more.

Enhancing Details and Atmosphere



Now we're going to really bring out the details in the owl by adding Dynamic Contrast. Head into the Effects Tab and click on Add Filter. From the "Apply with mask to" menu on the left, choose Animal to make sure the filter only applies to the owl. Then, select Dynamic Contrast from the filters list to sharpen and enhance the textures. In the More menu within the filter, choose Texture Enhancer to take the details up a notch. If it feels a bit too strong, you can dial it back by lowering the Opacity until the effect looks just right. This will make the owl's feathers pop, giving it incredible definition. Now let's draw the viewer's attention to the owl by adding a Vignette filter. Head over to the Effects Tab, select Add Filter, and choose Vignette from the list. In the filter's styles, pick the Strong preset. This will darken the edges of the image and pull focus toward the center where the owl is. Adjust the intensity if needed, but the Strong style is perfect for making the owl the clear focal point of the image, creating a powerful



Experiment with Style

Now let's experiment with a creative touch by adding a Black and White filter. Go to the Effects Tab, select Add Filter, and choose Black and White from the list. I recommend trying out the Neutral style within the filter for a striking, high-contrast look, but there are plenty of creative black and white options to explore. Each style brings a different mood and feel to the image, so play around to find the one that best enhances the owl's textures and overall composition. This can give your photo a timeless, artistic flair.

End Results



Color Version: The owl's details are sharp and vivid, with dynamic contrast enhancing the feathers. The warm tones and vignette make the owl pop against the darkened background, drawing the viewer's eye.



Black and White Version: The black and white version transforms the image into a timeless scene, emphasizing texture and contrast. The owl stands out boldly, while the shadows create depth and a vintage, artistic vibe.

Portrait

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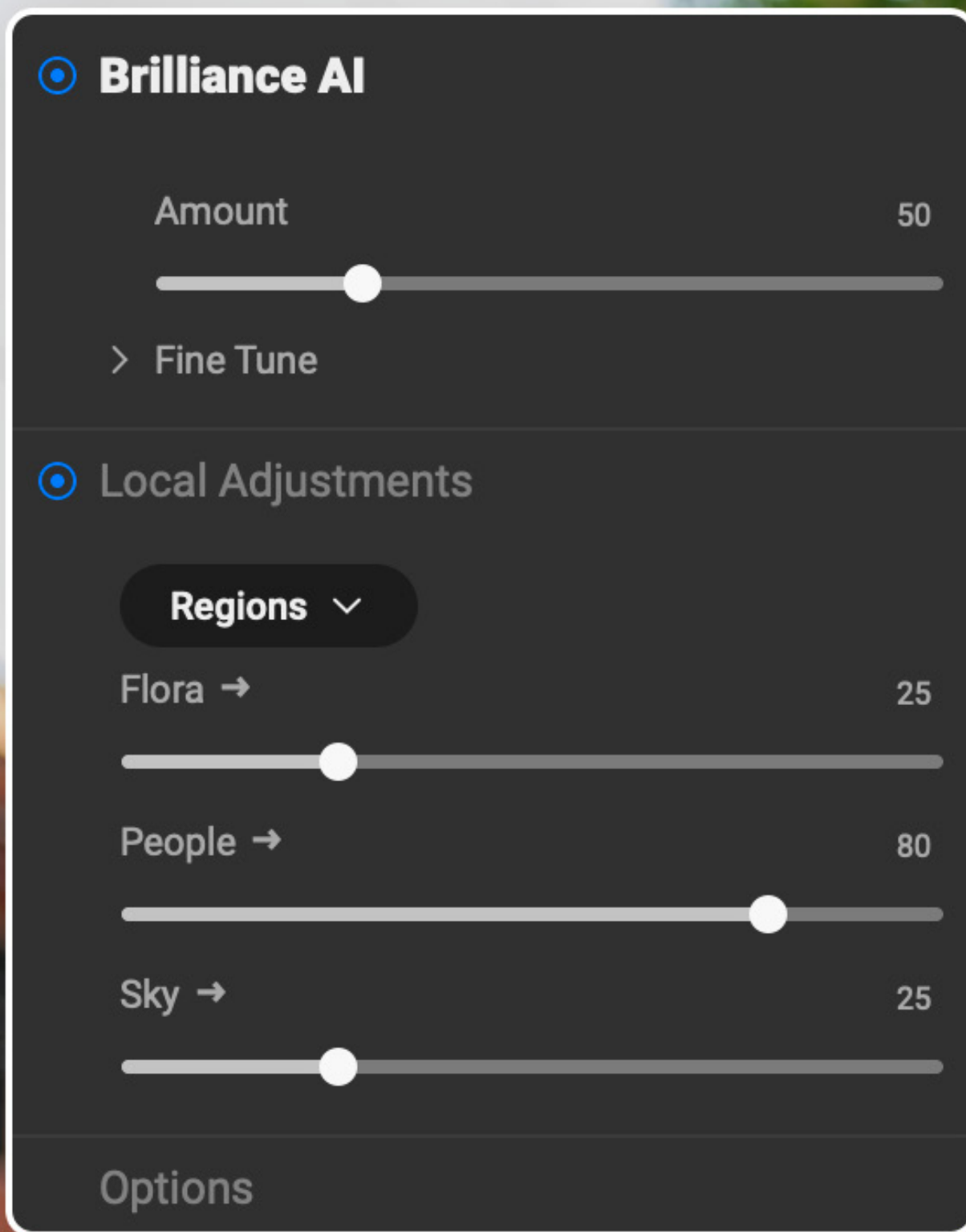


In this portrait workflow inside ON1 Photo RAW, we're going to start by using Generative Erase to clean up the image. Select the power pole or any large distracting object, and the tool will automatically remove it, blending the background seamlessly. After that, we'll apply Brilliance AI to automatically adjust the tone and color, brightening the scene and making it more vibrant. From there, we're going to dive into Local Adjustments to tweak specific sections of the photo, enhancing details or fine-tuning areas that need a touch-up. Next, we'll head over to the Effects Tab and add a soft, dreamy Glow to the background for a gentle, ethereal feel. To make the scene even more light and airy, we'll add the Sunshine filter to create a warm, radiant effect. Finally, we'll use the all-new Match Color filter to introduce a custom style to the image by matching the colors from any reference photo you choose. This adds a unique, cohesive look to your portrait, giving it a personalized, artistic finish.

Remove Distractions

To remove the power pole from your image in ON1 Photo RAW, start by selecting the Retouch Tools from the left toolbar. From there, choose the Generative Erase tool located in the top toolbar. Once the tool is active, paint over the power pole by brushing across the entire area you want to remove. After you've fully covered the power pole, click the Generate button to let the AI fill in the area, seamlessly removing the distraction and blending the background naturally.



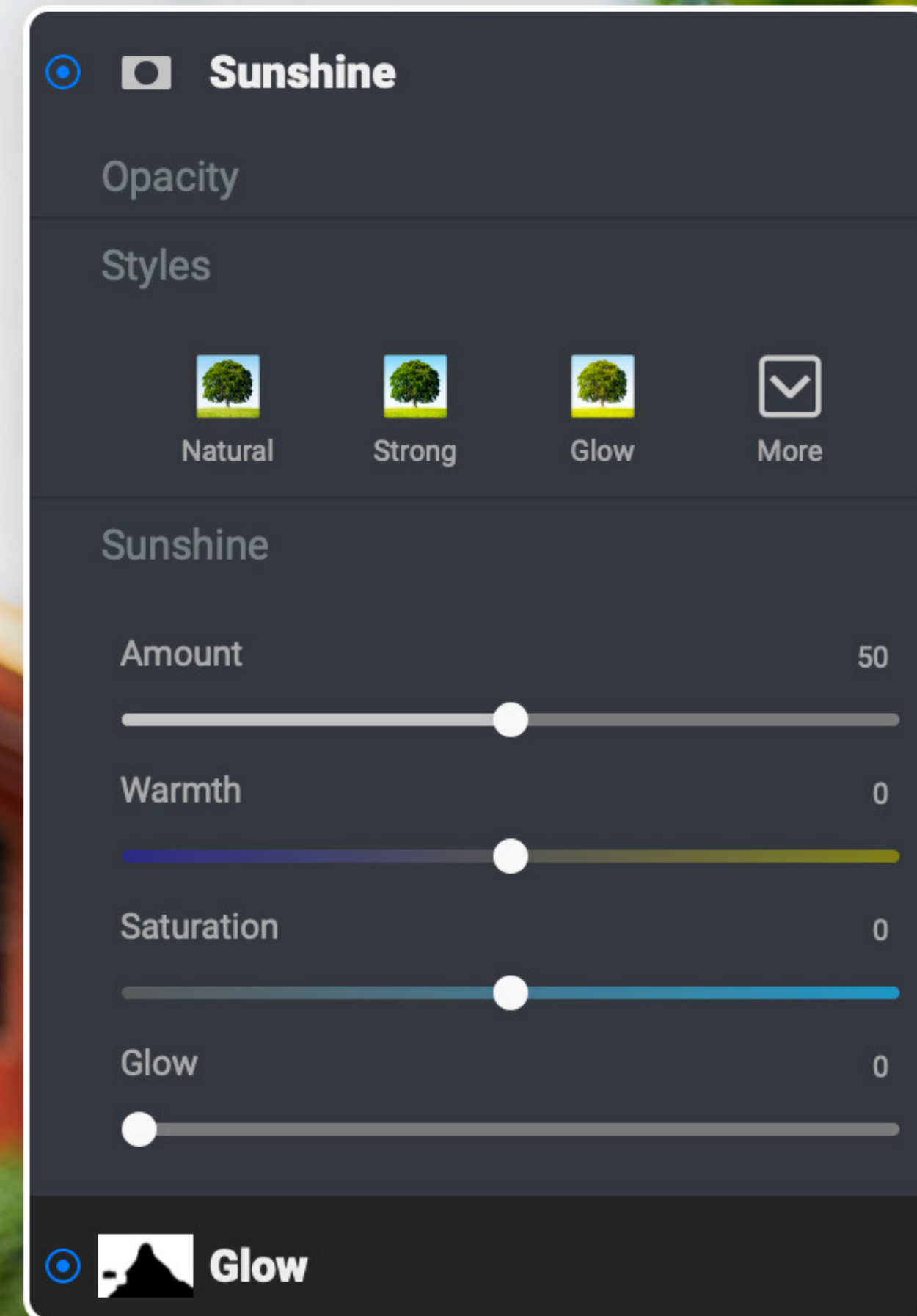


Brilliance AI

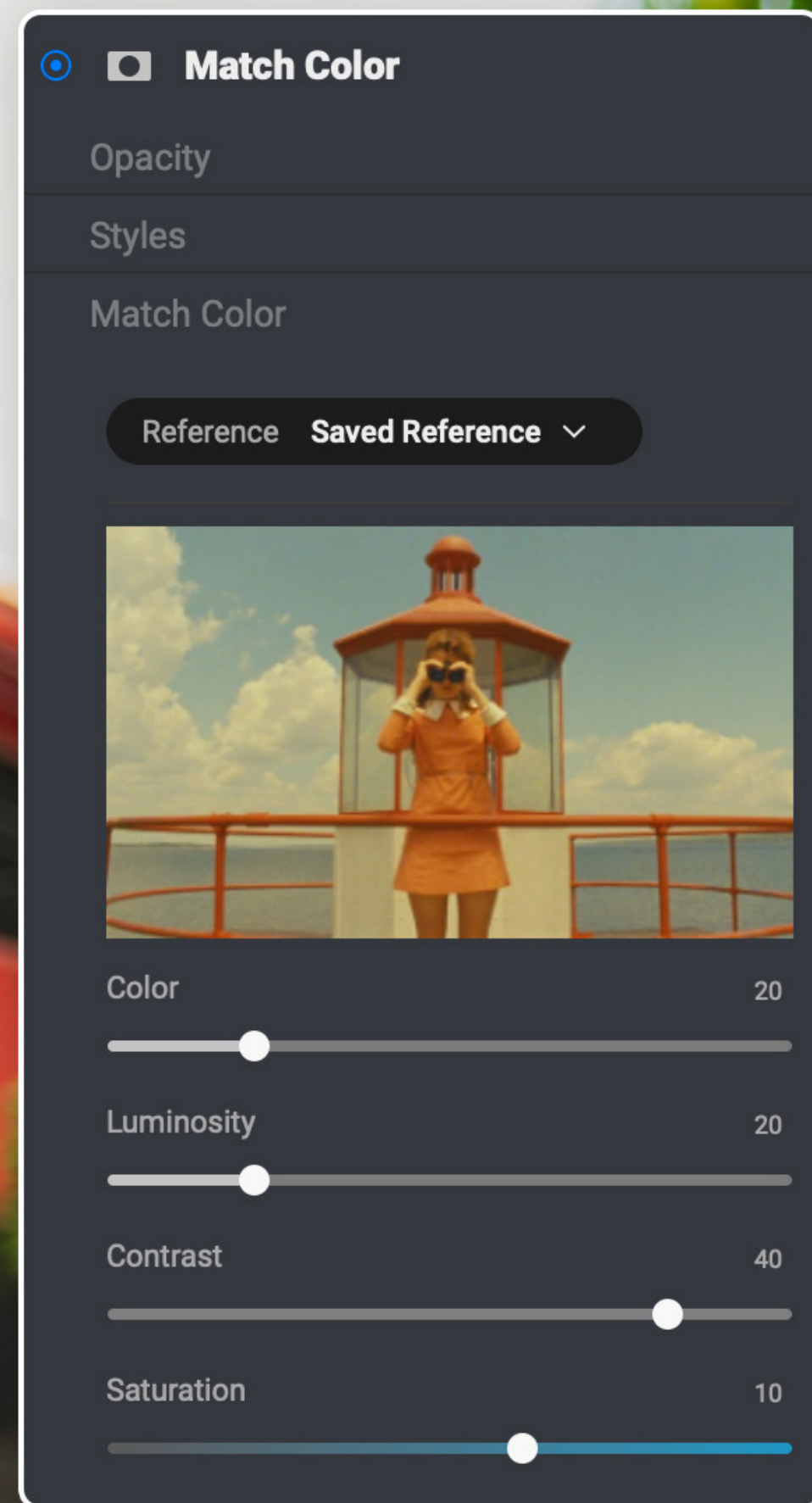
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Softening Background

Now we're going to add a soft glow to the background using the Glow filter. In the Effects Tab, select Add Filter and choose Glow. From the Apply Mask To menu, choose to apply it to the background, ensuring the glow affects only the background areas. Select the Dark style within the filter to create a soft, dreamy effect. Next, we'll add another filter—choose Sunshine to bring some contrast and a light, airy feel to the image. If either filter appears too strong, adjust the Opacity slider in each filter to dial back the intensity and create a balanced look.



Matching Color



Now let's use the Match Color filter to match the color and tone of any reference image. In the Effects Tab, select Add Filter and choose Match Color. For this edit, I used a screen capture from the Wes Anderson film Moonrise Kingdom to give the photo a slight, faded matte look with a warm, cinematic feel. After selecting your reference image, the filter will automatically adjust the color and tone of your photo. You can fine-tune the look by adjusting the sliders within the Match Color filter to control how much the color and tone match is applied, allowing you to perfectly balance the effect to fit your style. I also experimented with using the Borders filter to give the image a creative frame. Since I was using a cinematic feel, I chose to use the Film category and went with the Film Large Format border. Feel free to play around with any borders that work well!

