Photo to Pencil Sketch

Photoshop Tutorial

Learn how to turn a photo into a line drawing effect in Photoshop

In this Photoshop tutorial you are going to learn how to turn a photo into a line drawing effect in Photoshop.

You don't have to feel intimidated by line drawings once you get the hang of it. Follow these easy steps, and soon you too, can draw your photo to pencil sketch just like the pros.

1 Choose a photo with white background:

You can use almost any photo to add the effects and create a realistic looking line drawing but keep in mind that the image in the white background.
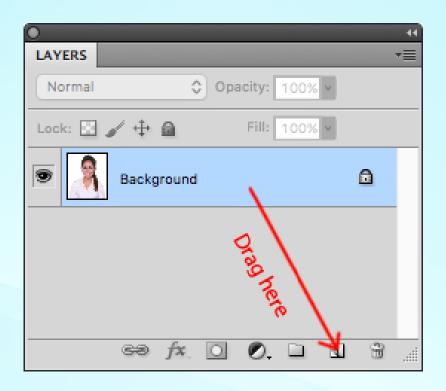
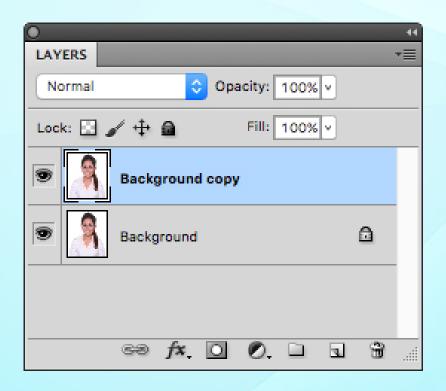So, the first thing you need to start with is an image of white background for the best effect.

2 Duplicate the background layer:

Next, start with the background and drag in to the new layer icon area to make a duplicate layer.

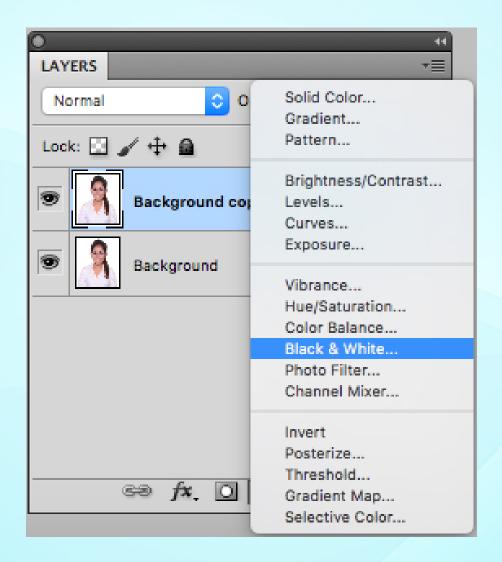Creator: Rokaiya Yeasmin Munni

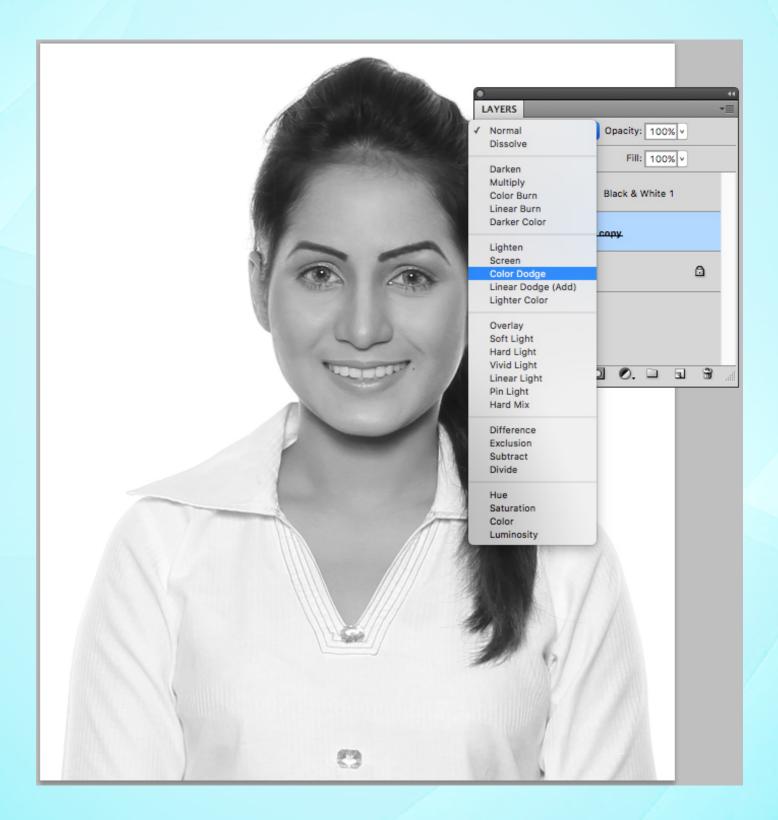# 3 Convert the color photo to black and white:

Then you will want to make a new black and white adjustment layer from the lower portion of layer panel. (Your photo will now be black and white rather than color). After that you will click the double arrow to close the panel.
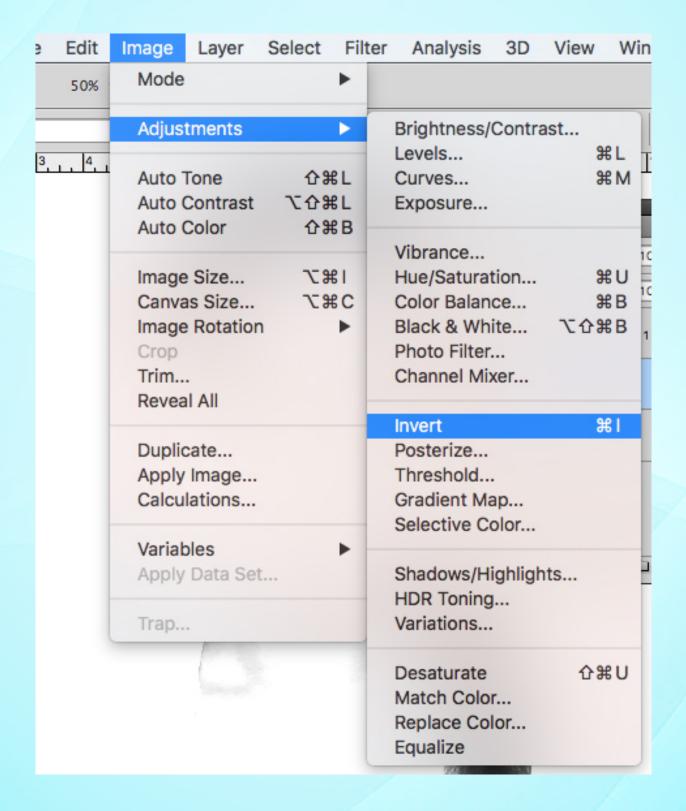
4 Change blending mode:

Then go to the background copy and click blending mode to the color dodge. (This will give you a screen will more contrast).
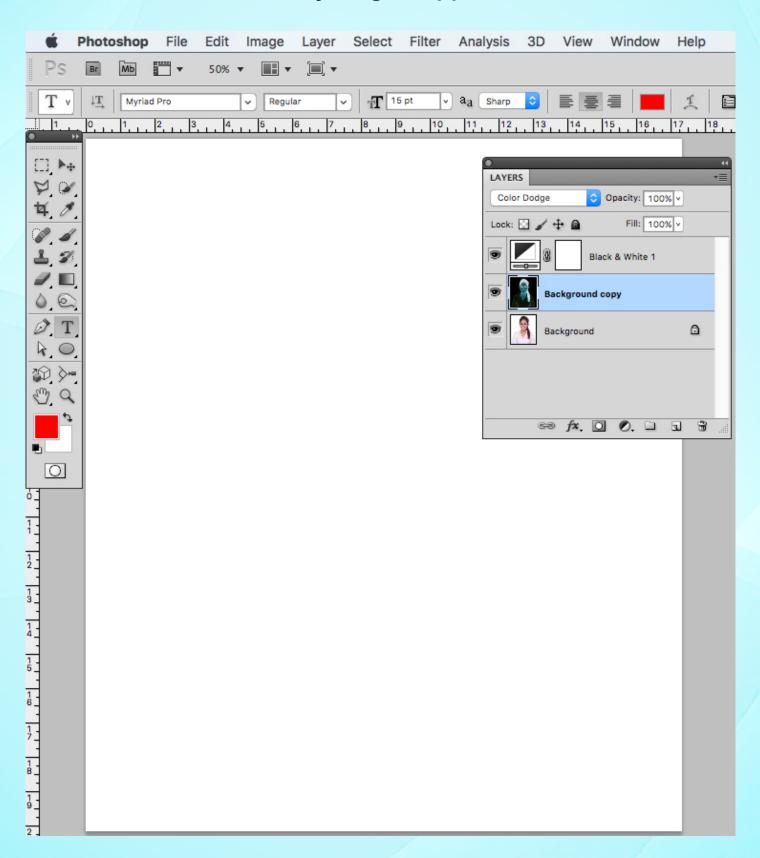
5 Invert the photo:

Next you will invert or reverse the colors. All you is press Ctrl + I on the keyboard together or go to Image>Adjustment>Invert.
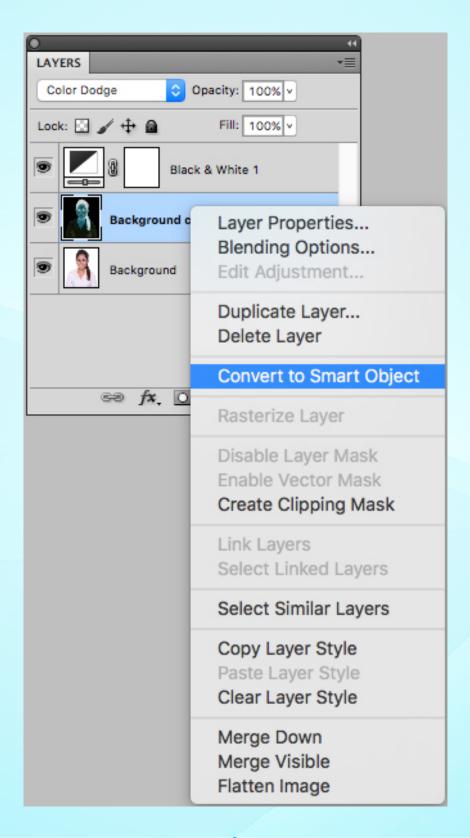
6 Everything will be disappears:

You will then see that everything disappears.
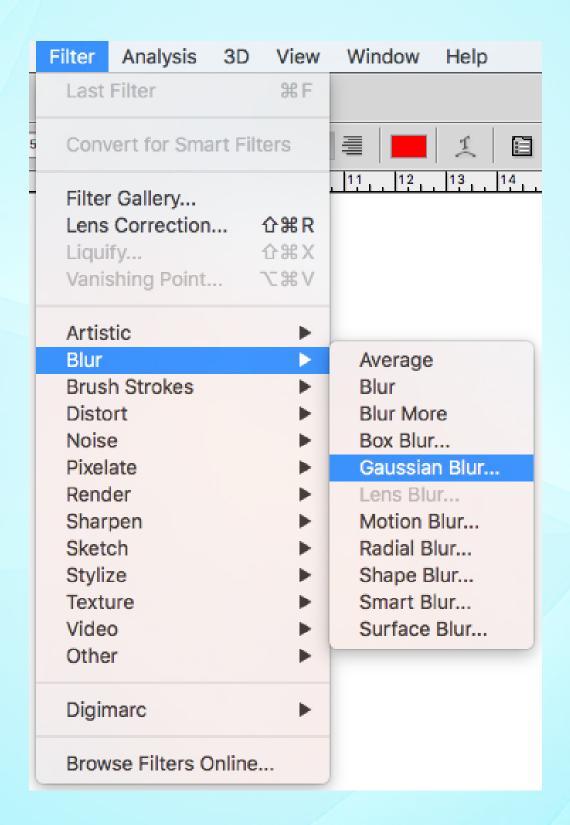
7 Convert the layer to smart object:

Now you want to right click on the layer to convert using smart object.
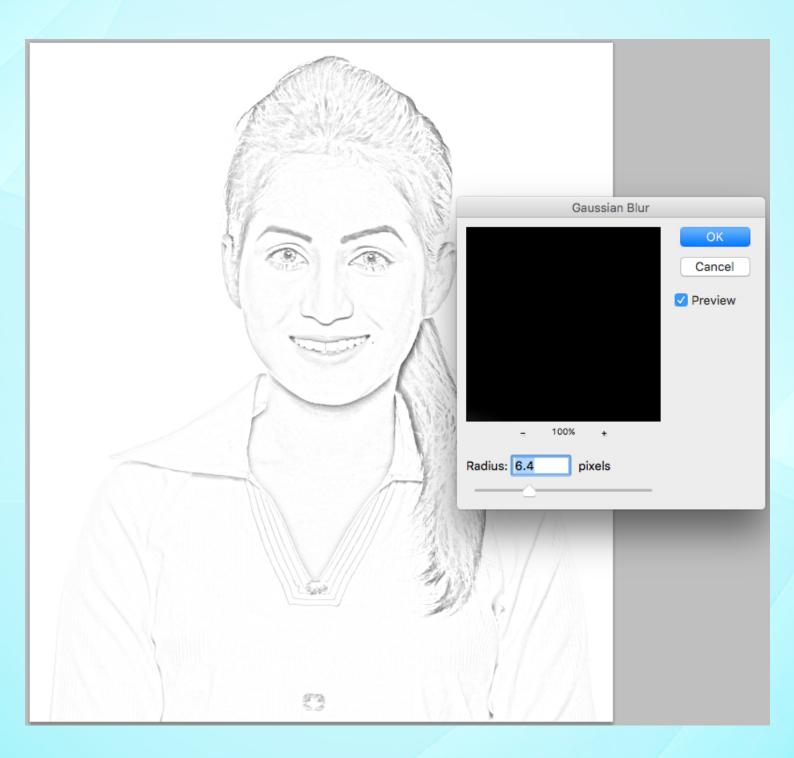
8 Apply Gaussian blur:

Then you go to Filter > Blur > Gaussian blur to make the object.
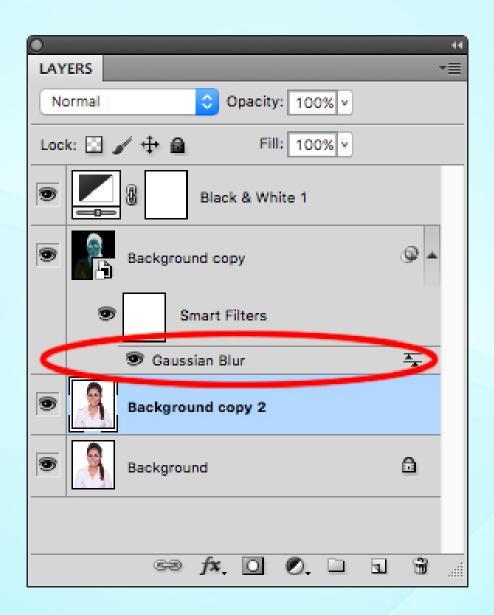
9 Adjust Gaussian blur window:

By blurring the image you can begin to see the outline, which is foundation of the line drawing. Set the radius at 6.4, you may adjust it slightly to see which works best for you, but you get the general idea. Then click ok.

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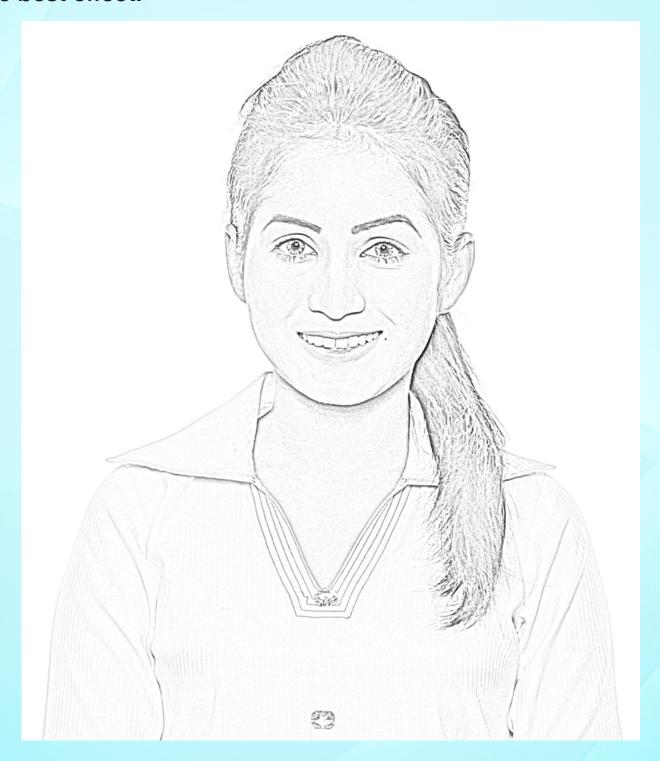# 10 Gaussian blur window is in the layer panel:

You can see that the Gaussian blur window is just off to the side so you can make your adjustments accordingly and change the setting to suit your photo.
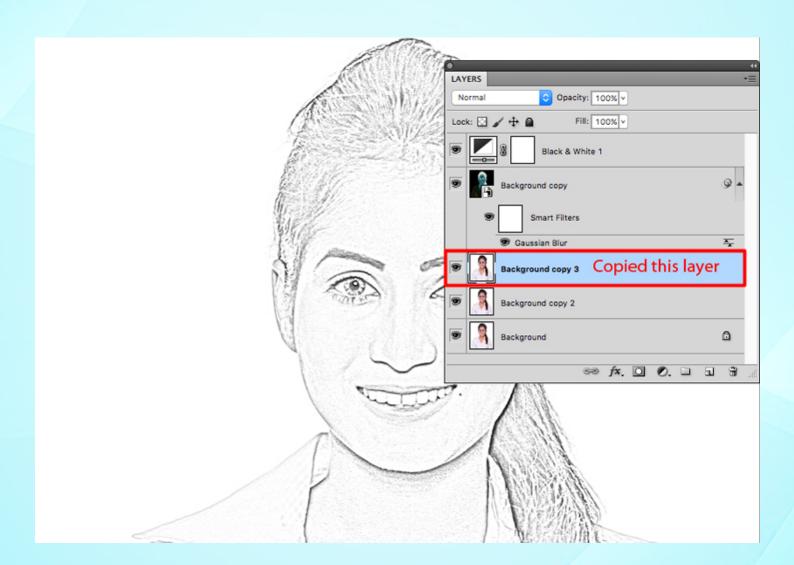
11 Simple line drawing effect:

Now you can either use this line drawing that you have created so far for a strikingly simple effect and end it right here, or you can go in for more detail. If, however you want to make a more realistic looking drawing read on to see which filters will give you the best effect.
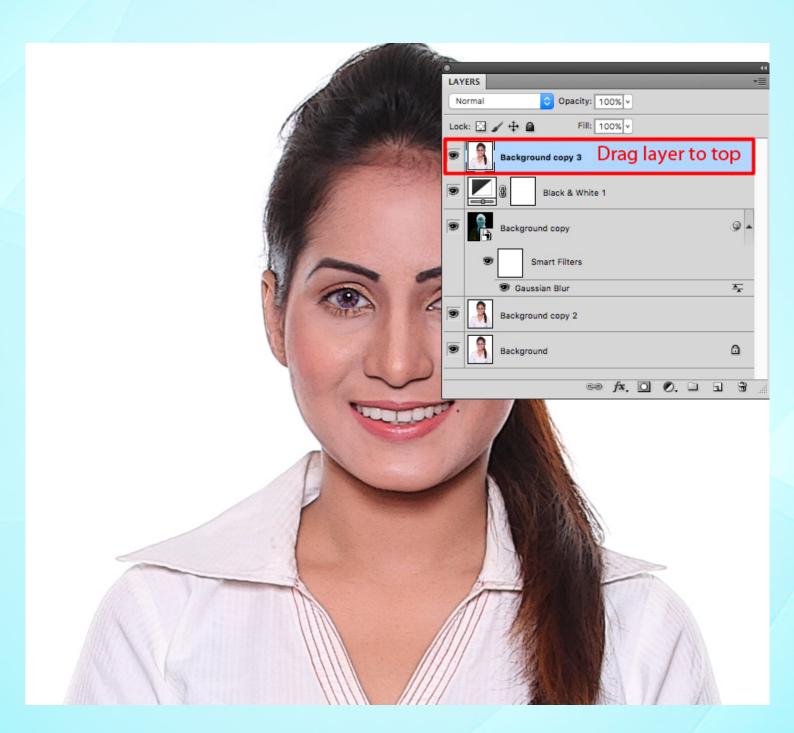
12 Duplicate background copy layer:

So then you want to click on the background copy box on the right. Then push the Ctrl+J buttons together to duplicate the layer you want.
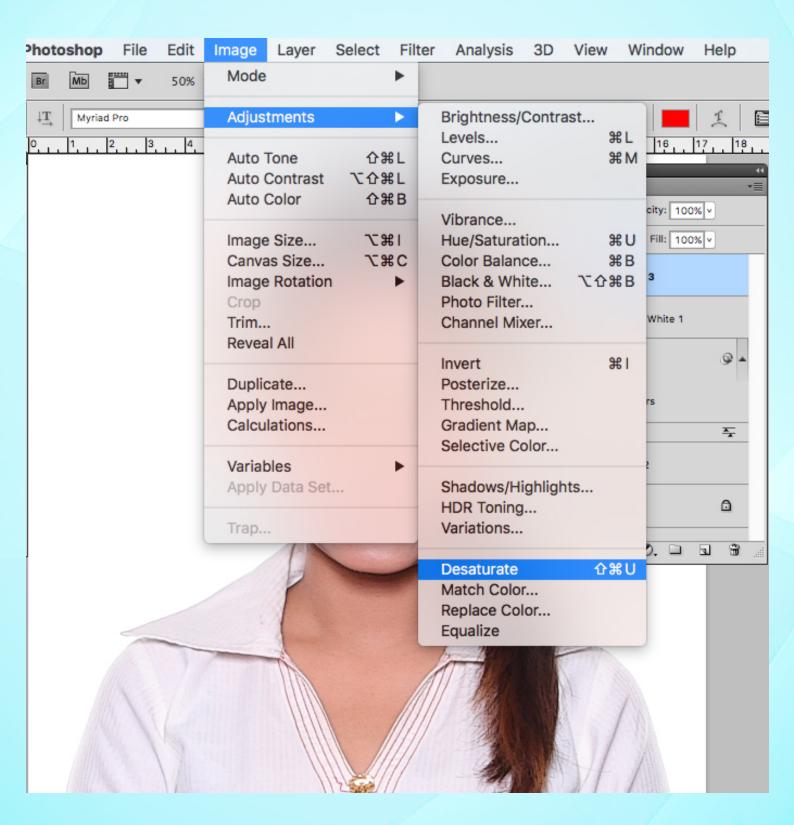
13 Drag layer to top:

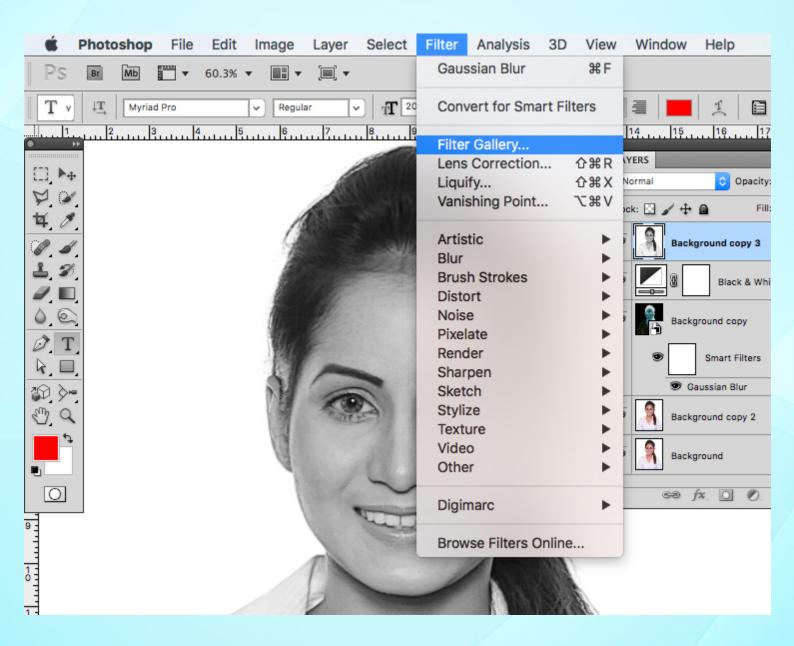Then you need to click on it and drag it up to the top.

14 Desaturate the layer:

Next you go back to the image at the top of the screen, then click on adjustments > de-saturate which will de-saturate the image.
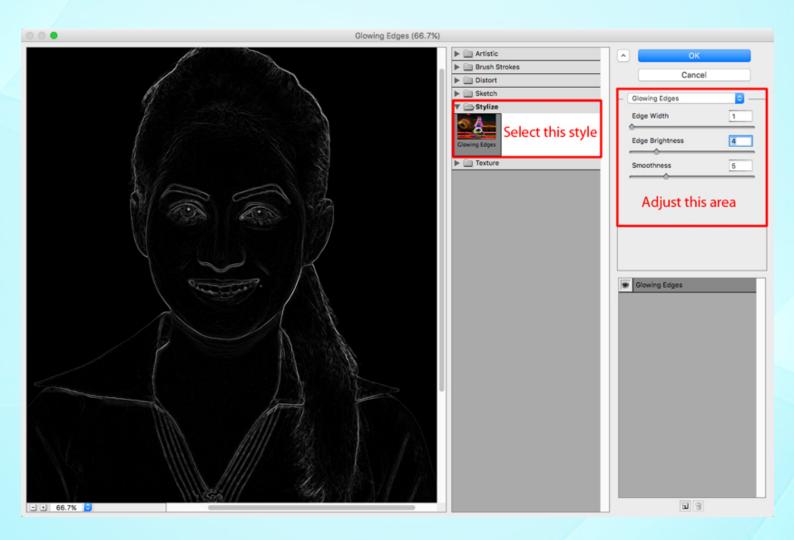
15 Apply filter gallery:

Then you need to go to the filters and click on filter gallery. Then you would choose the selection of stylize. This will actually create a negative looking effect and allows you to see the outline of the image in white.

16 Adjust style in filter gallery:

This white line looks similar to a pencil line; here you can also adjust the edges to find the width of line that you desire. The next step is to work on the smoothness of the edge and the brightness factor. I personally like to use an edge width of 1 and edge brightness of 4 and about an edge smoothness of 6. Then click ok when finished.

Now at this moment the lines are white and the background is still black (reverse image) but we want it to be the opposite.

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