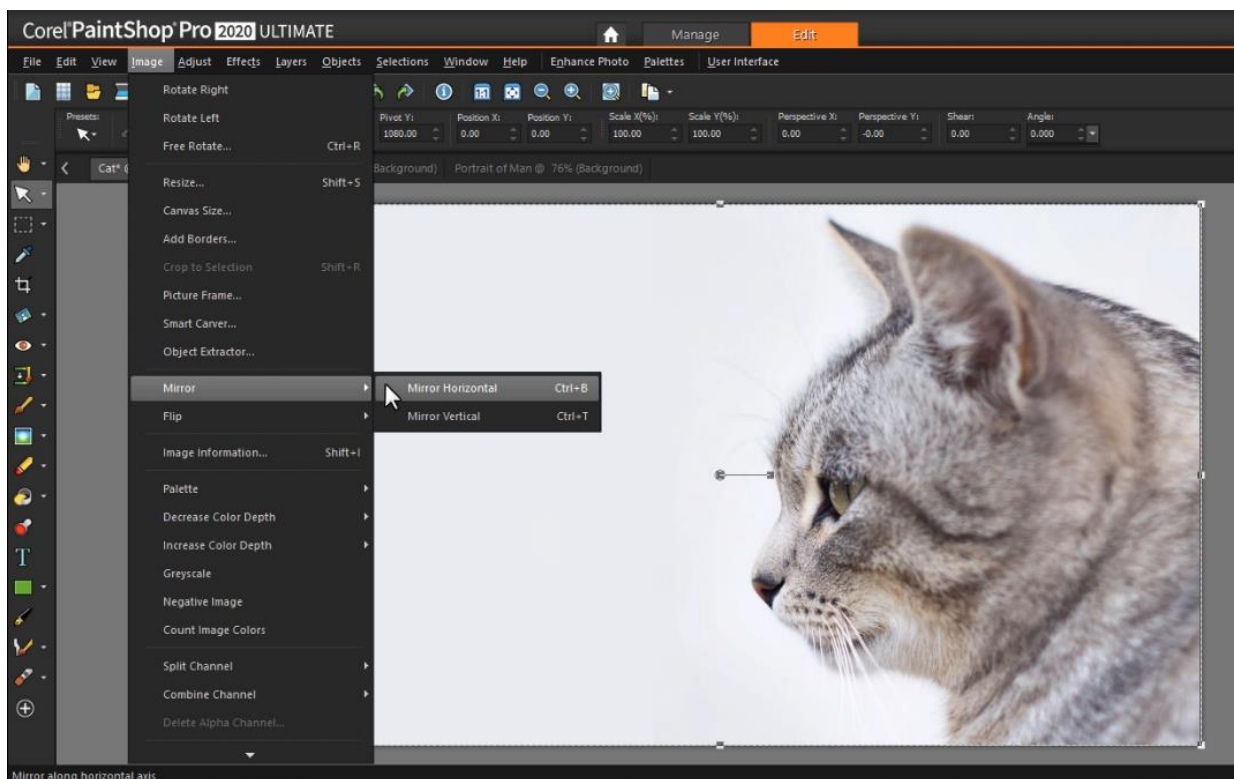# How to Flip, Mirror and Rotate Photos

In this tutorial, we will show you how to rotate photos to fix any images that have been photographed on an angle or end up sideways from your smartphone. You will also learn how to flip and mirror photos to improve the composition of your social media images and create unique composites.

How to Flip and Mirror a Photo

First of all, let's look at the difference between the **Flip** and **Mirror** commands. When you use **Flip**, the photo, active layer or selected object/area is flipped in position. When you use **Mirror**, the photo, active layer or selected object/area is flipped along the horizontal (left to right) or vertical (top to bottom) axis.

When you flip or mirror a photo you won't see a difference between these two commands. But you can also flip or mirror objects (like a shape or text) or a selection, and then you will see the difference.

- Open your image in the **Edit** tab.
- Click on **Image** in the top menu, then select **Mirror** > **Mirror Horizontal** to flip the image along its horizontal axis.
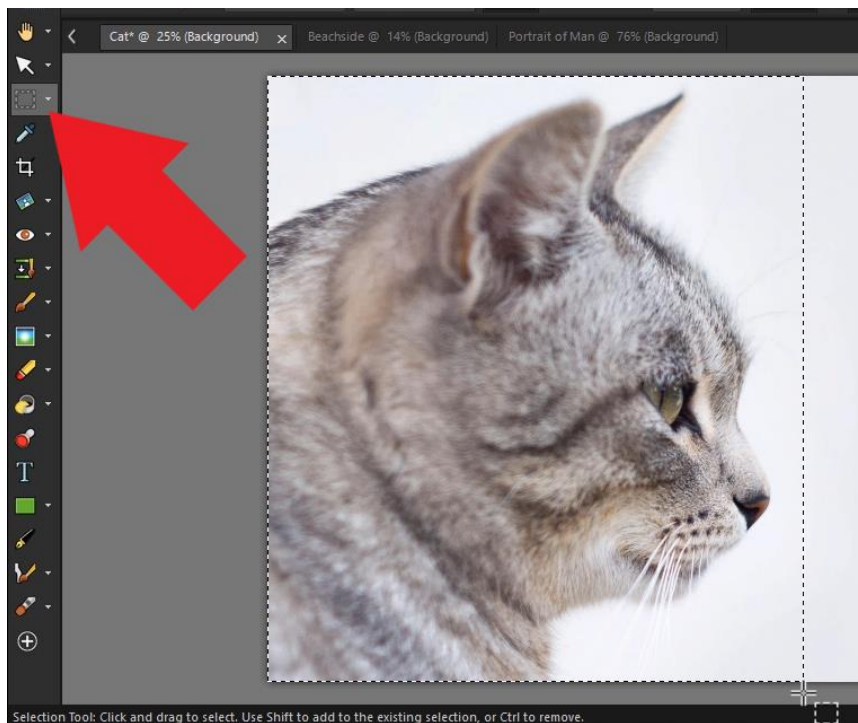
And this is the result. If you had used the **Flip Horizontal** command on this photo, the result would be exactly the same.
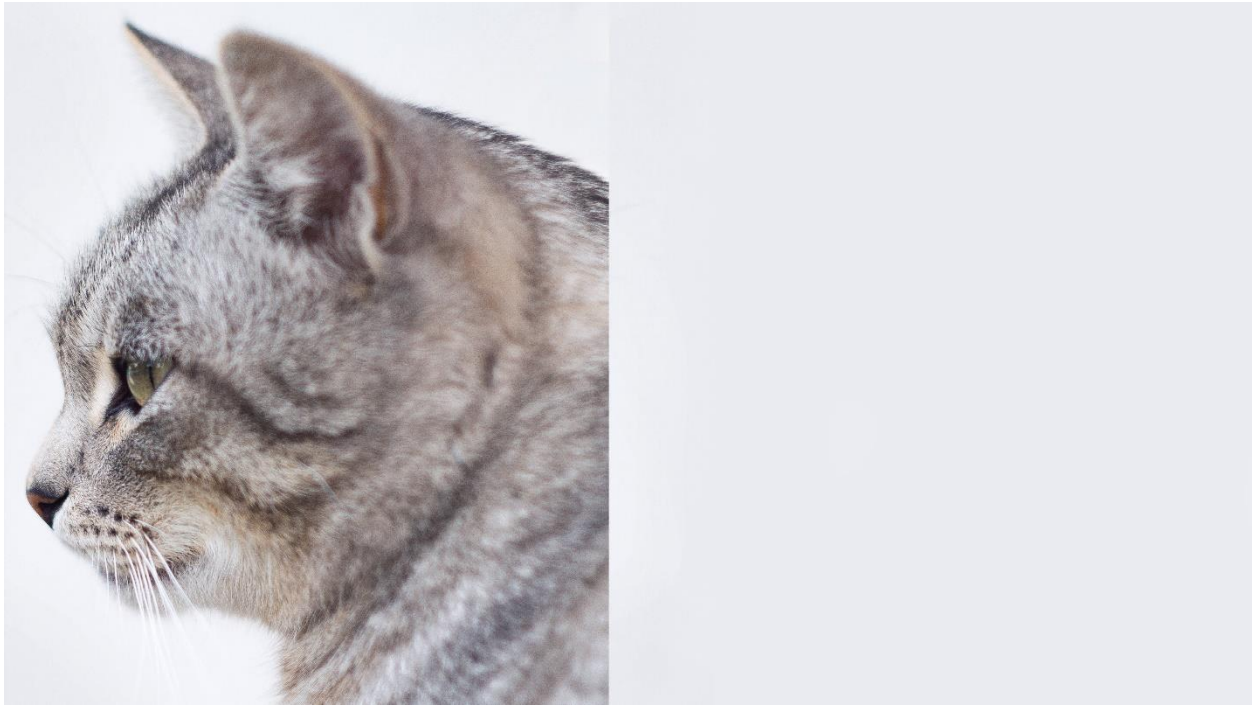

How to Flip and Mirror a Selection

When you flip or mirror a selection, the object or area you have selected will be placed on a new layer as a floating selection, leaving the original layer unchanged.

- Use the **Selection** tool and draw a selection around the cat.

Click on **Image** > **Flip** > **Flip Horizontal** and this will be the result.

Or, click on **Image** > **Mirror** > **Mirror Horizontal** and this will be the result. When working with a selection you can clearly see the difference between the **Flip** and **Mirror** commands.

The flipped or mirrored cat selection is now on a new **Floating Selection** layer. If you want to preserve this new layer, right-click on the layer in the **Layers** palette and select **Promote**
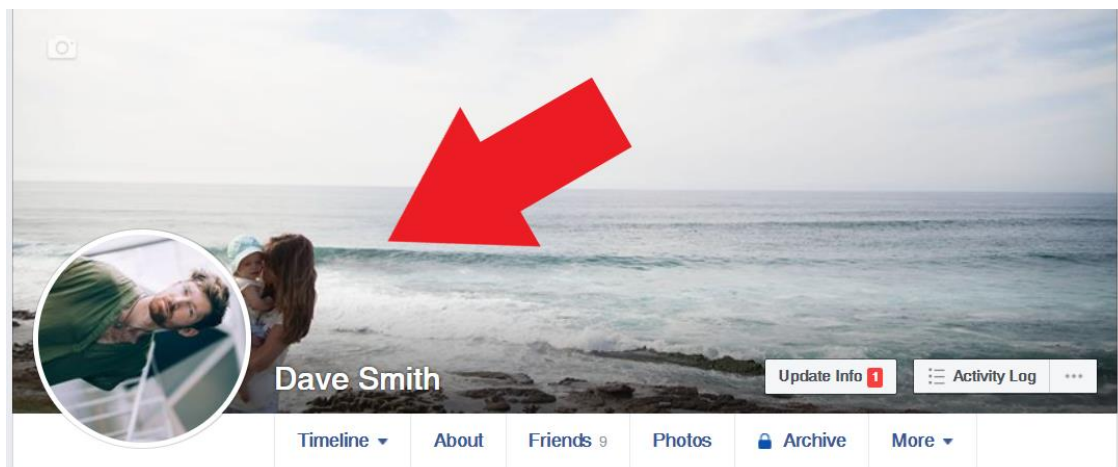
Selection to Layer. This layer will remain independent, which means you can use a variety of photo editing tools and techniques to modify it without affecting the layer below. For example, you can use the **Pick** tool to resize and reposition the promoted selection to create something like this:
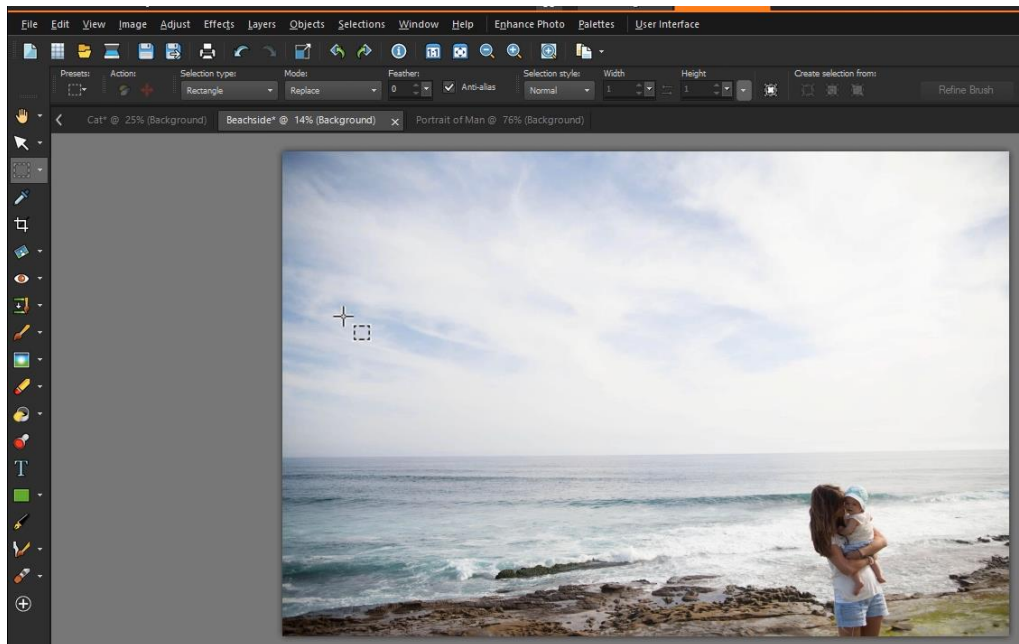

Rotating and Mirroring Images for Better Composition

Another practical use for rotating and mirroring images is for when you want to create an image to use on social media, for example, a cover photo on Facebook.

You can mirror or flip the image so that the key part of an image won't be blocked by your profile picture.
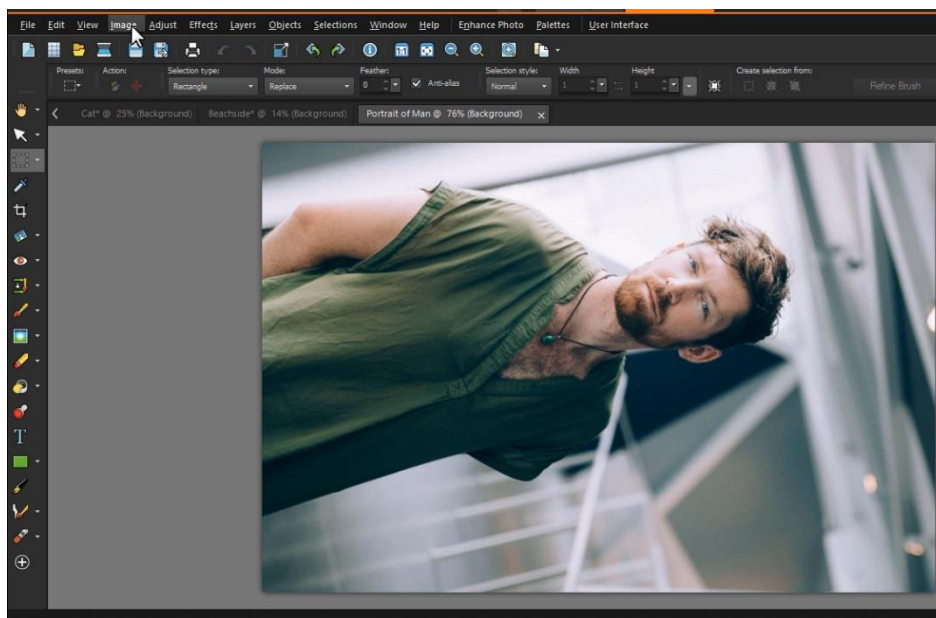
Click **Image**, then select **Mirro**r > **Mirror Horizontal**. Now when you upload this photo, the woman and child won't be blocked by the profile picture.
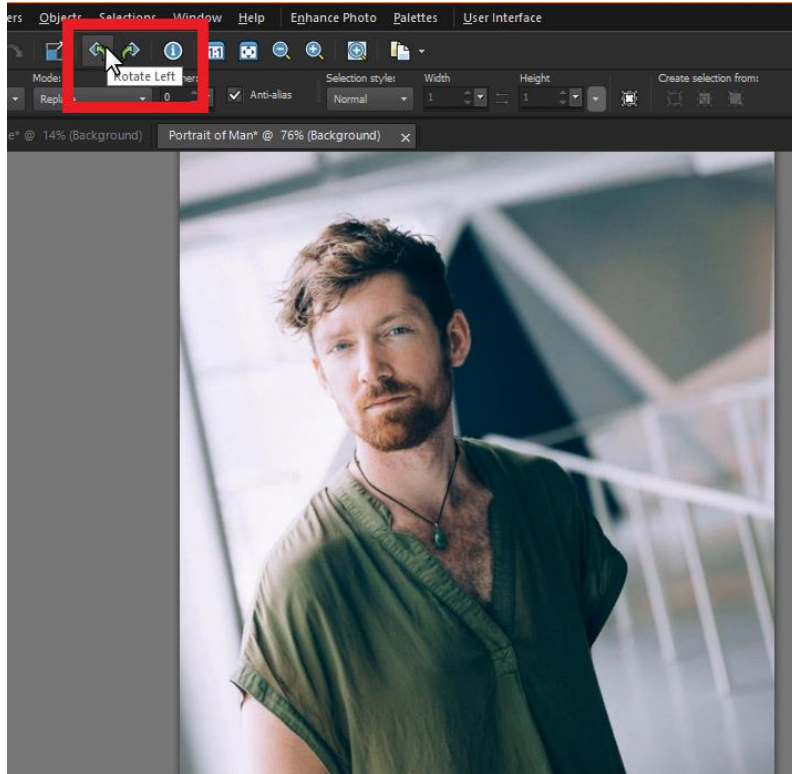

How to Rotate Images

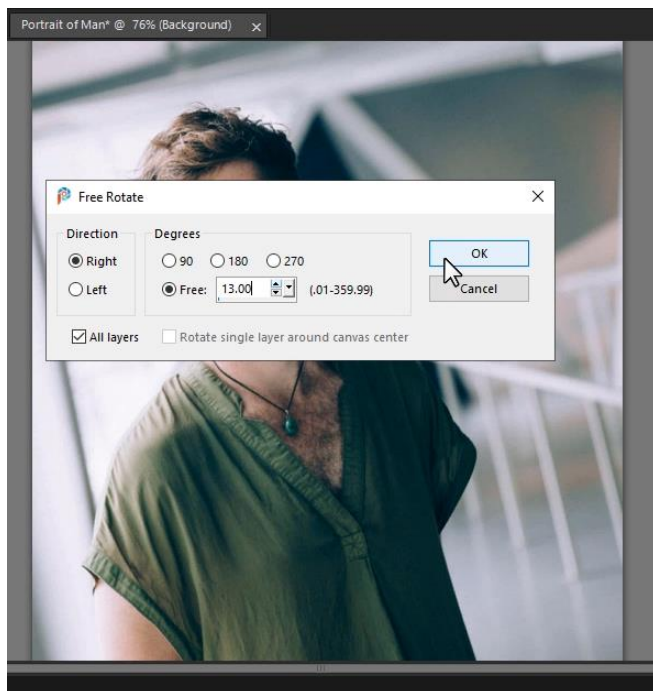I have this portrait of a man that I need to rotate before adding it as his profile picture.

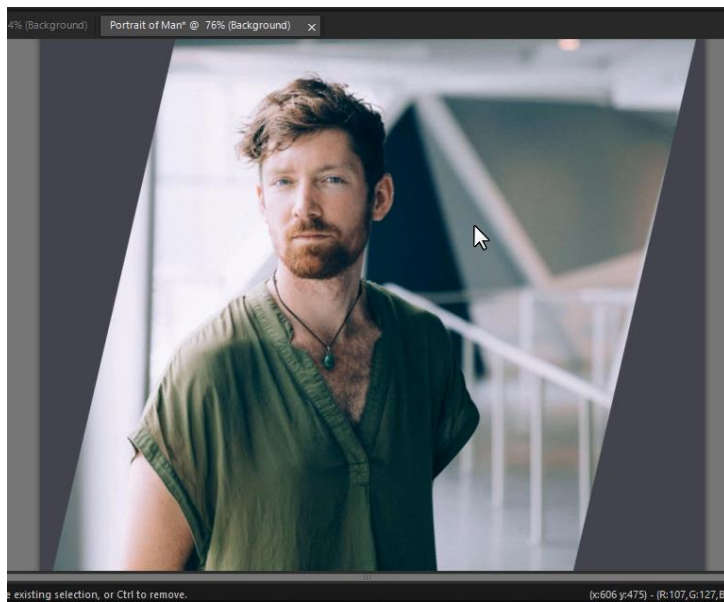There are three different options to choose from when rotating images.

1. To rotate the image 90 degrees clockwise or counter-clockwise, use the **Rotate Right** or **Rotate Left** commands under the **Image** menu or simply click on the **Rotate Right** or **Rotate Left** buttons.
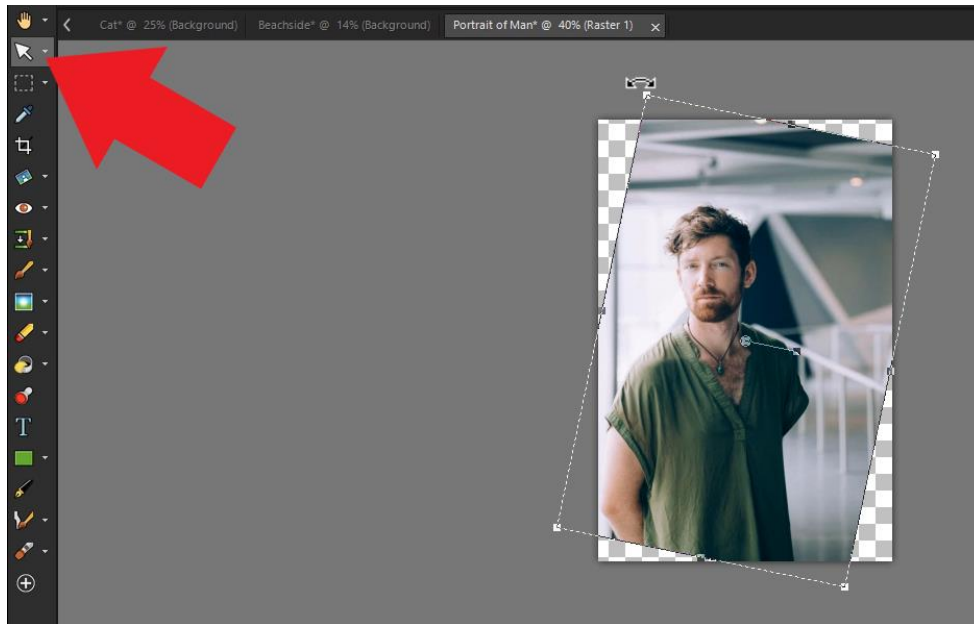

2. To rotate an image to a specific angle, select **Free Rotate** under the **Image** menu. In the **Free Rotate** dialog window:
   a. You can choose either the **Right** or **Left** option to set the direction of the rotation.
   b. Under **Degrees**, you can choose the **Free** option and set a specific value for the rotation.

After this, you'd need to crop the image accordingly to remove the added background.

3. To rotate photos using the **Pick** tool, you can simply drag the rotation handles to the left or right until you reach your desired rotation level.

Again, you will need to use the **Crop** tool to remove the added background.

Now we can clearly see our subjects in our cover photo on Facebook and we no longer have a crooked photo as our profile picture.