GIMP Layers and Selections

The two ideas that unlock editing

Layers

Each layer holds part of the picture. You can move, hide or change one layer without touching the others.

Selections

A selection marks an area. Only the selected area changes. Use the rectangle, ellipse or free select tool.

Copy to a new layer

Select an area, press Ctrl + C, then choose Edit, Paste as, New Layer.

Opacity

The Opacity slider in the Layers dock makes a layer see-through.

Layer masks

A mask hides parts of a layer without deleting them. Paint black to hide and white to show.

Keep your work

Save as XCF to keep every layer. Export a copy as PNG or JPG to share.

Tip: Name your layers by double-clicking them. It saves time later.

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