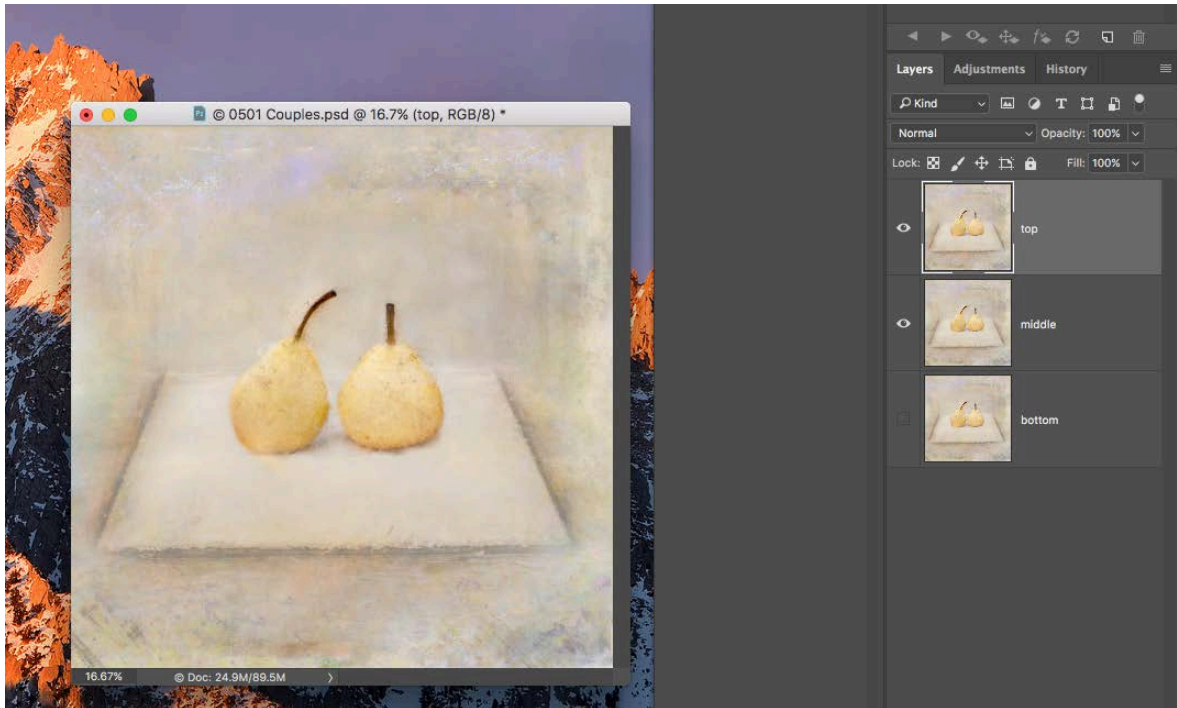


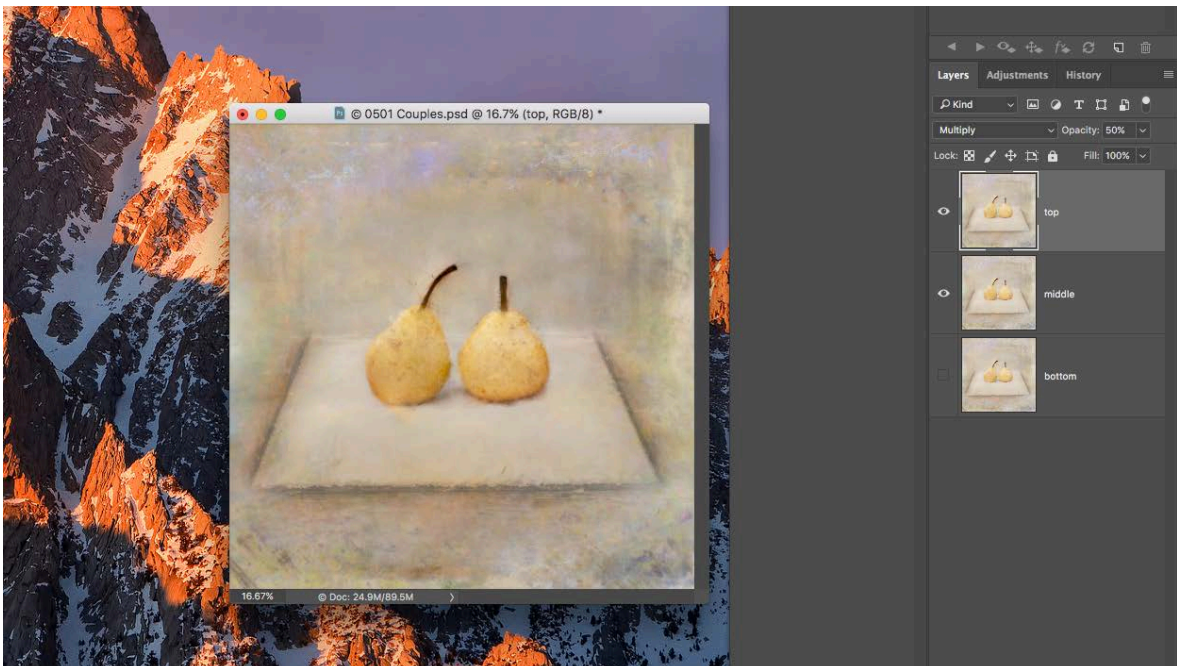
1/ Duplicate layer so you finish off with 3 identical layers (top - middle - bottom)

Make bottom layer invisible by clicking the 'eye' icon for that layer.



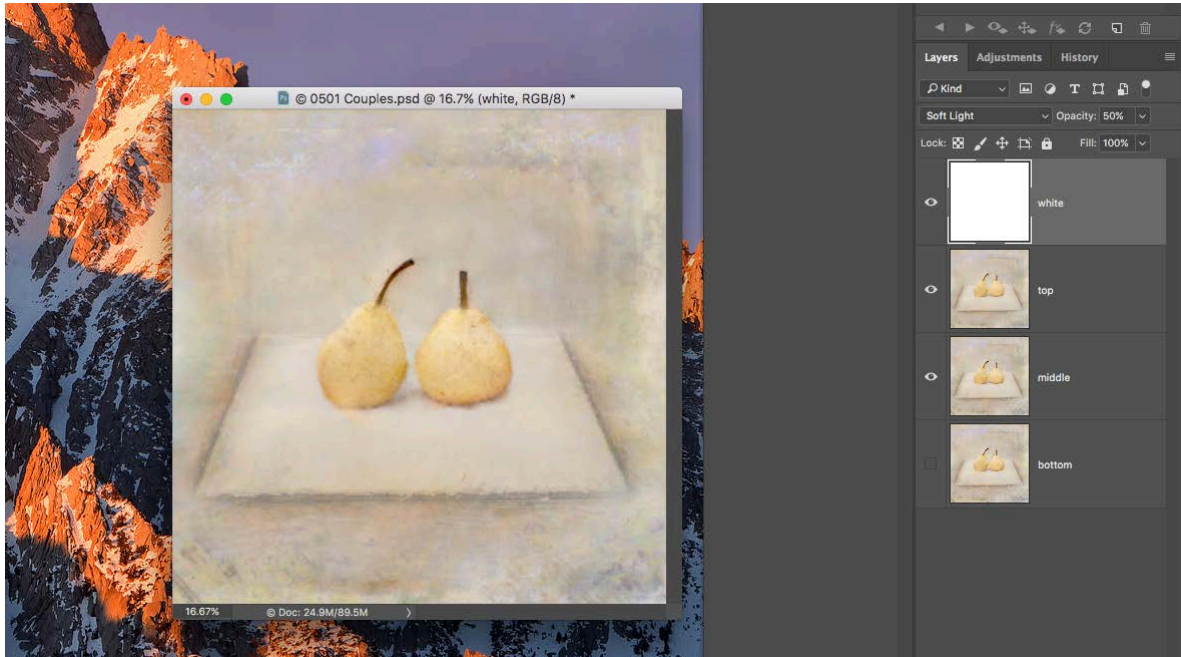
2/ Apply Gaussian Blur to top layer, approx 6%.

Change blending mode to 'multiply' and opacity to 50%



3/ Create a new layer, this should be at the top of the stack, above layer 1.

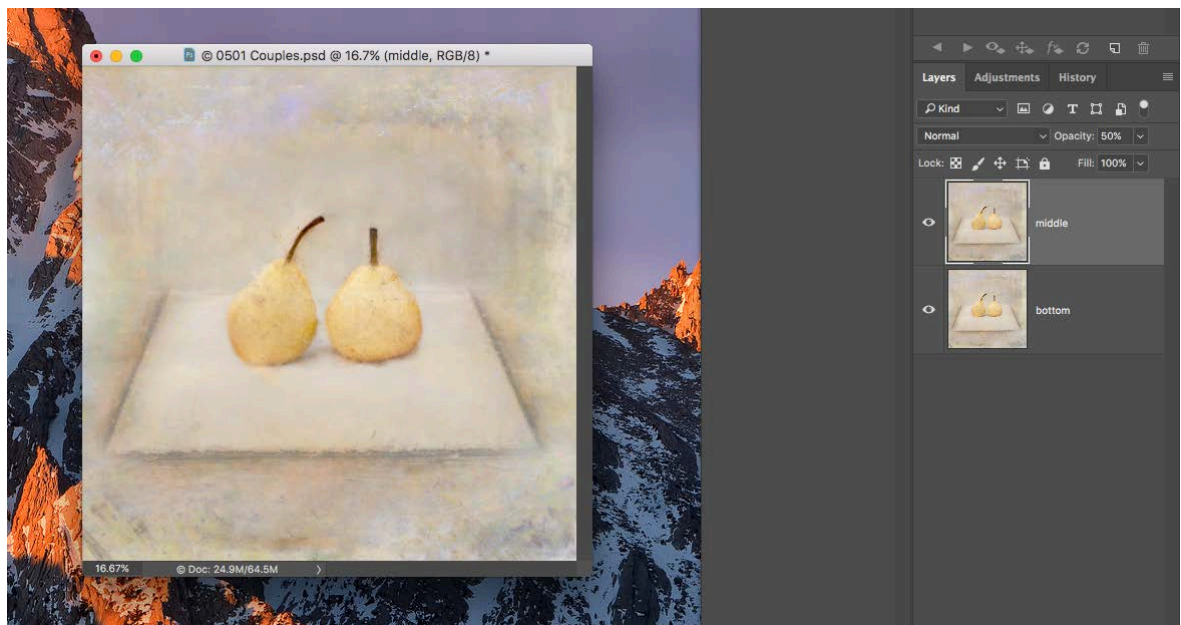
Fill with white, change blending mode to 'soft' and opacity to 50%



4/ Highlight middle layer and merge visible layers.

You will now have two layers. Middle with a softening effect and, bottom without effect.

Make bottom layer visible and alter opacity of middle layer to 50% or so to fine tune effect.



Note: all figures are approximate, experiment.

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