Doka PhotoLab

User Manual



Table of Contents

Table of Contents
2

Intro
3

Getting started
4

First time Users
5

The Retouching Process
6

Local HDR
8

Vignette
9

Skin mask
10

Bokeh
11

Export and share options
12

Helpdesk
12

Copyright
12

Intro

Welcome to Doka PhotoLab, an advanced, non-destructive photo viewer and editor that combines studio-quality tools into a single seamless application.

Simply add your photo libraries and Apple Photos to Doka PhotoLab, and the app will automatically analyse each image and its histogram to apply intelligent adjustments real-time while viewing. Multipoint white and black levels, along with colour saturation, are continuously monitored and optimized as you browse your photos, eliminating the need for manual retouching. Manual retouching is still possible! You stay in full control, choosing the final look, while the app consistently applies your personal preferences across your entire collection. Doka PhotoLab supports all image formats, including high-end medium and large format digital camera RAW files.

Doka PhotoLab never alters your original files; instead, it saves adjustment settings for each image and synchronizes these settings across all your devices, ensuring a consistent editing and viewing experience everywhere. This means your photos are already retouched and displayed at the highest possible quality whenever you view them.

Doka PhotoLab elevates your work to high-end, award-winning publish ready quality—whether your images come from an iPhone or the most advanced cameras. This dramatically reduces retouching time. Optional manual adjustments such as skin smoothing, multipoint local and full-image HDR, bokeh control, and vignetting can be applied within seconds. Say goodbye to lengthy edits and embrace a revolutionary way to enhance your photography.

Getting started

Before you can start you need to purchase a copy of Doka PhotoLab.

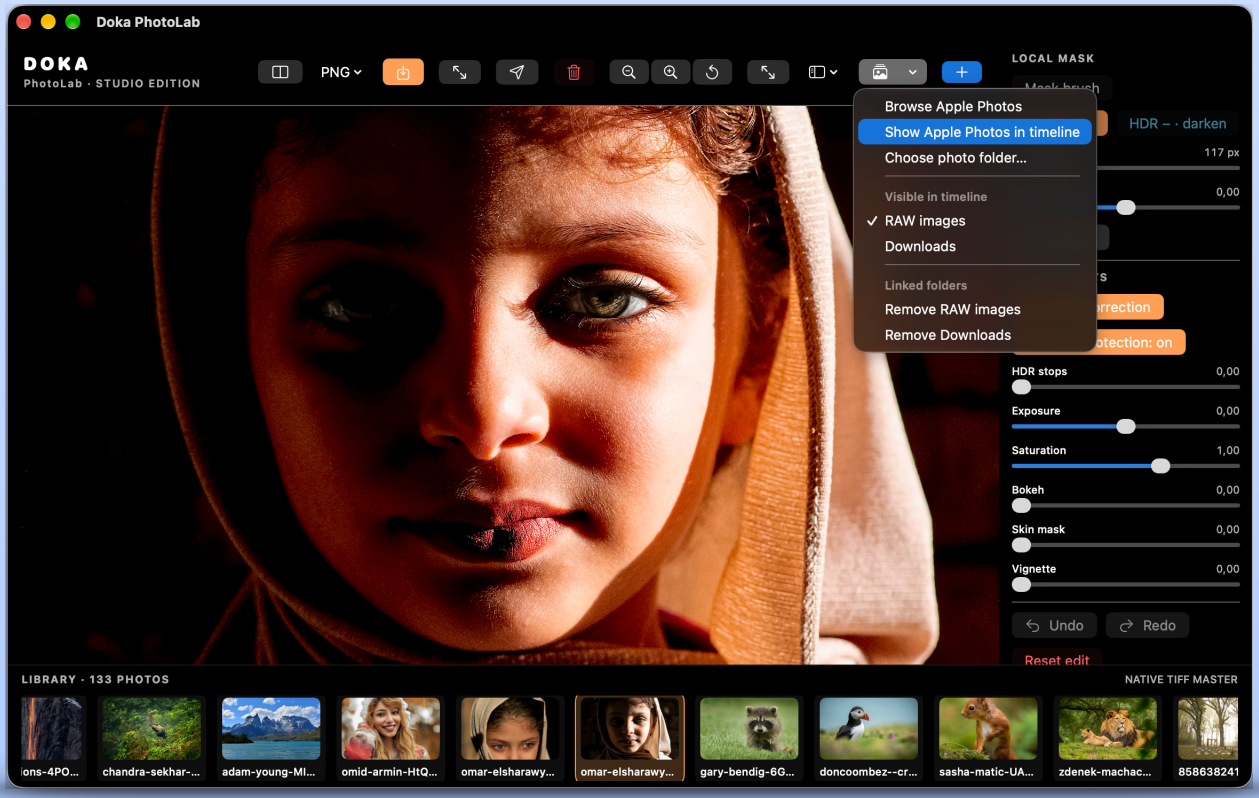
Use the official link below to visit the apps webpage:

https://www.enlightenment.school/doka-photolab.html

Next, click on the shopping basket which direct to your local App Store where you can either purchase or redownload the app. You can install your purchase on all your devices and that of family members.

Once your download is finished, you can open the app.

Next, click on the + sign and add all the photo folders of your choice.



You can use the following shortcut keys to quickly navigate the app (Mac)

F= toggle between editing mode and full-screen mode.

⬅️➡️= step through your photo's on the filmstrip.

⬆️= View original photo.

⬇️= View corrected photo.

Pinch= zoom in/out.

2 finger slide= move image around.

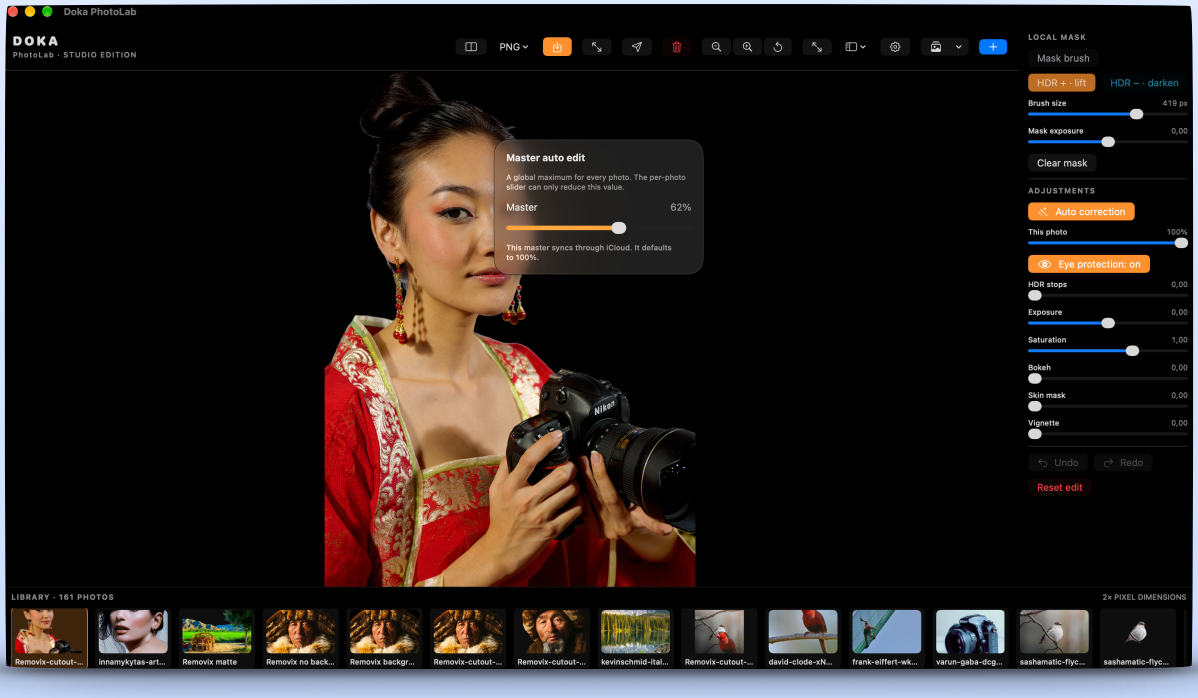
In the following chapters we zoom in on app features.

First time Users

Before beginning to view your work, we recommend opening several reference photos. If the photos appear accurate, you can proceed; however, if you believe an overall adjustment is necessary, please click the gear icon in the app and adjust the slider until you are satisfied. We suggest setting this slider appropriately for most of your work and making individual adjustments for each image using the slider under Auto Correction, if required.

Please note: Ensure your display is properly calibrated to achieve optimal results.

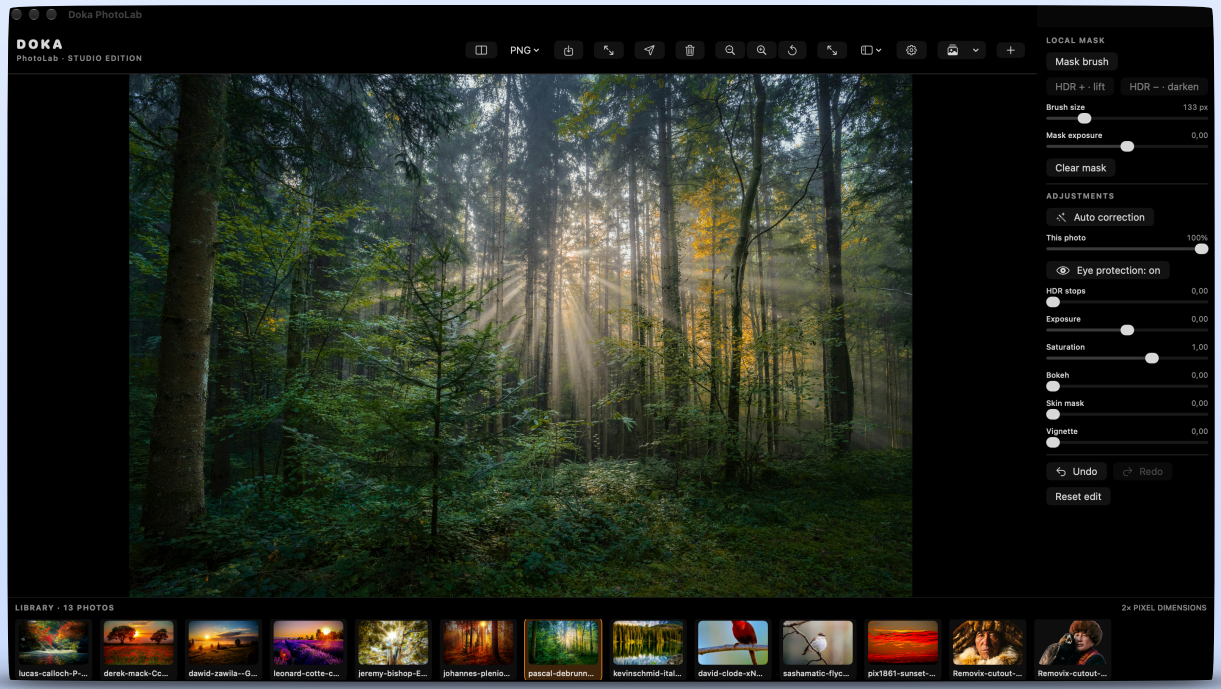
Guidelines for Slider Adjustment: Ensure that black levels are rendered as true black and highlights appear as bright white while preserving adequate detail. Colours should be realistic and vibrant yet naturalistic.



The Retouching Process

When you normally view a photo, the photo will be automatically processed to the best settings. The image left and right of the one you are viewing in the filmstrip will be processed too. This way there is less or even no waiting time when opening the next image.

Although you normally only see the original image briefly during the processing it looks like this.



Once the processing is ready you should see something like this:

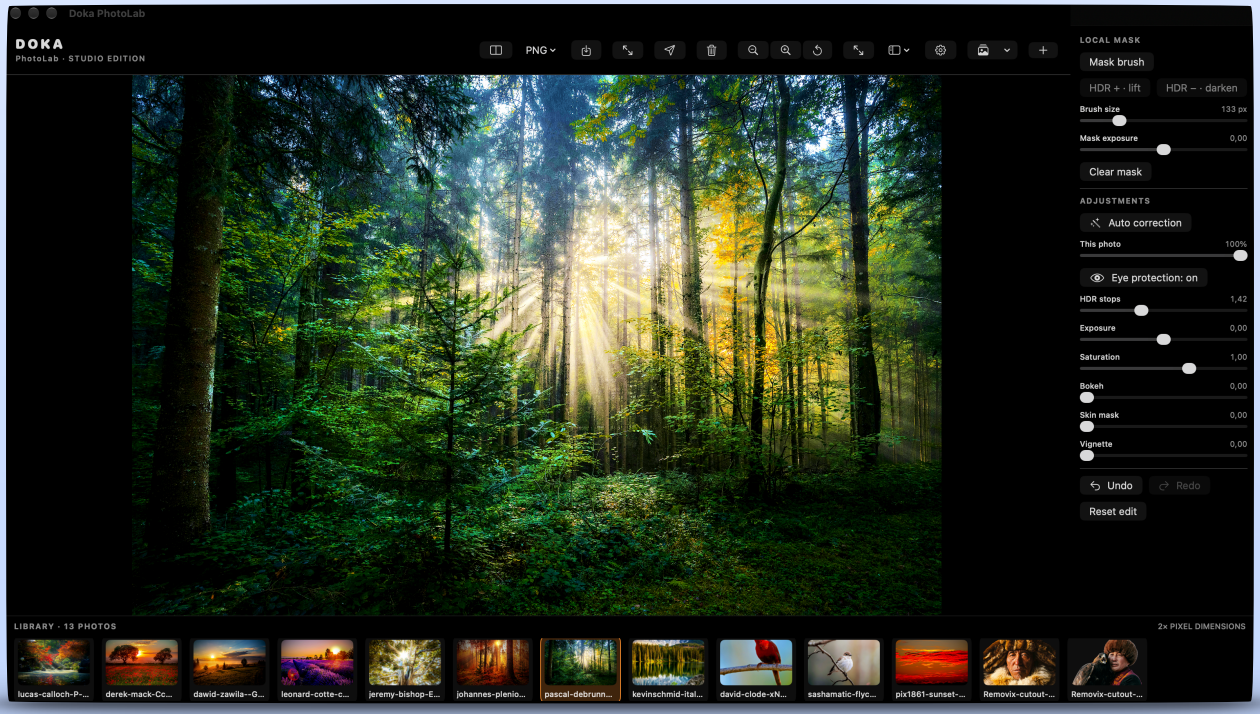


Although this is great step forward, more optional steps can be made to further enhance the image.

In the following chapters we show you the process.

HDR

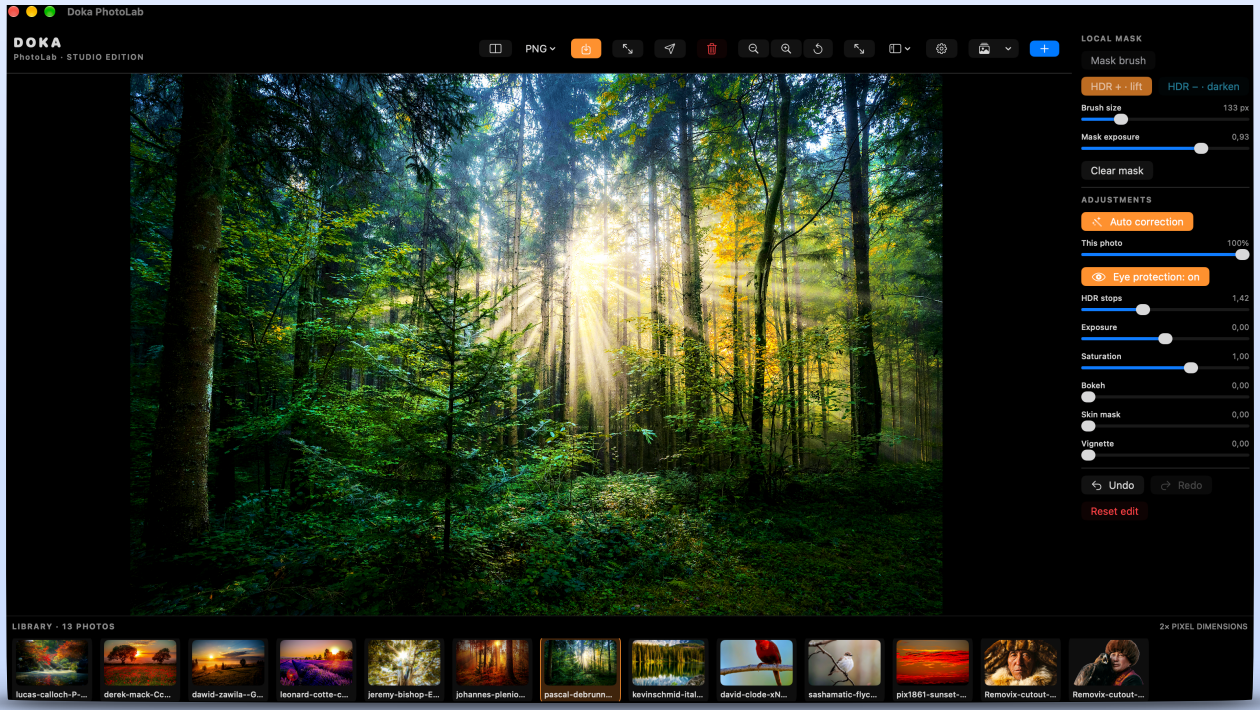
By increasing the HDR stops value, we can achieve more dramatic effects. In this case, I deepened the dark areas to a near black tone.



Local HDR

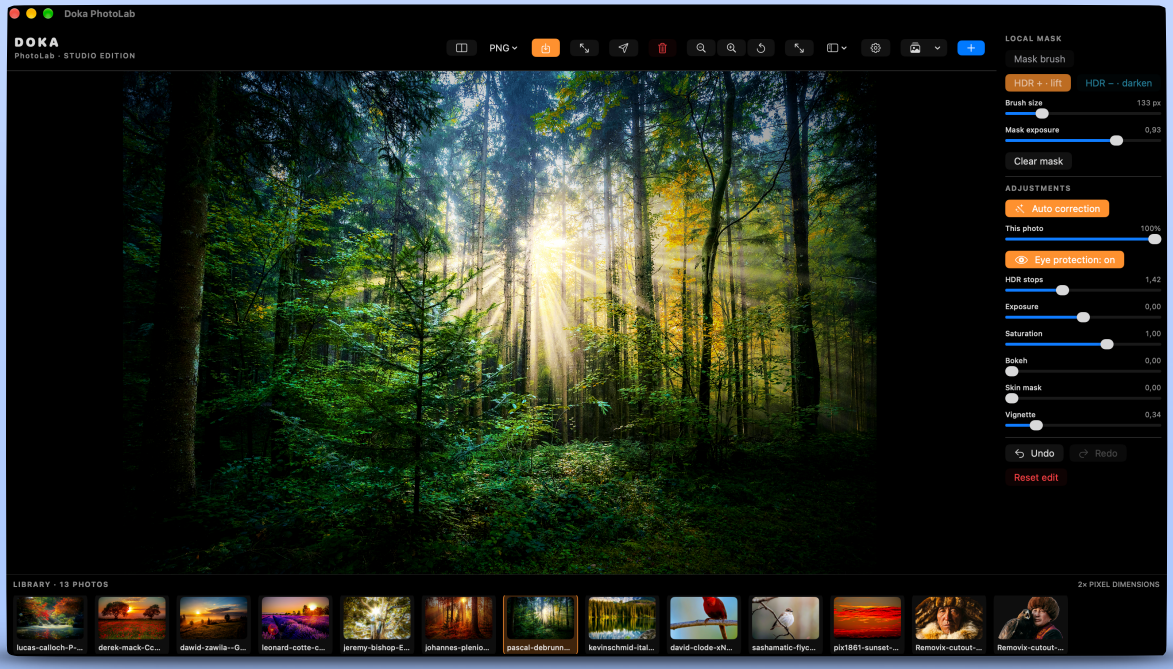
To create an even more dramatic effect I now use the HDR + lift setting. First click on HDR + lift, set the brush size to the size of the light source and paint a small orange circle on the light source. Then click on Mask brush: on to switch the brush off.

Adjust the Mask exposure until the light source approaches clipping and appears distinctly bright.



Vignette

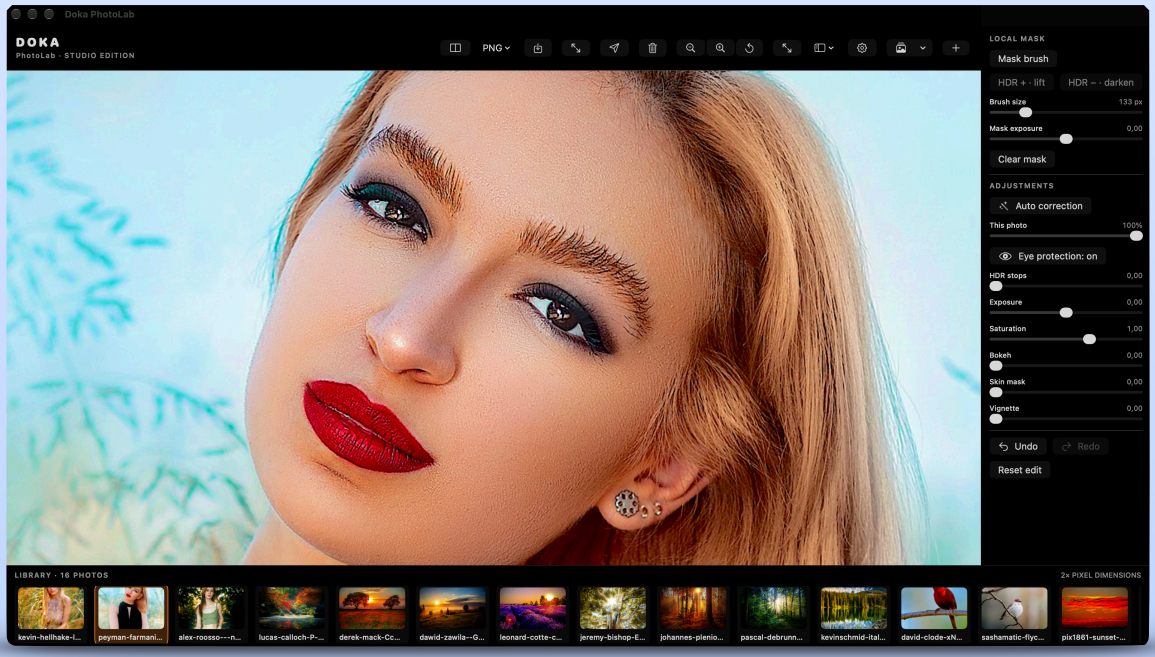
To heighten the drama, you might introduce vignetting. This darkens the corners and pulls the viewer toward the image's centre.

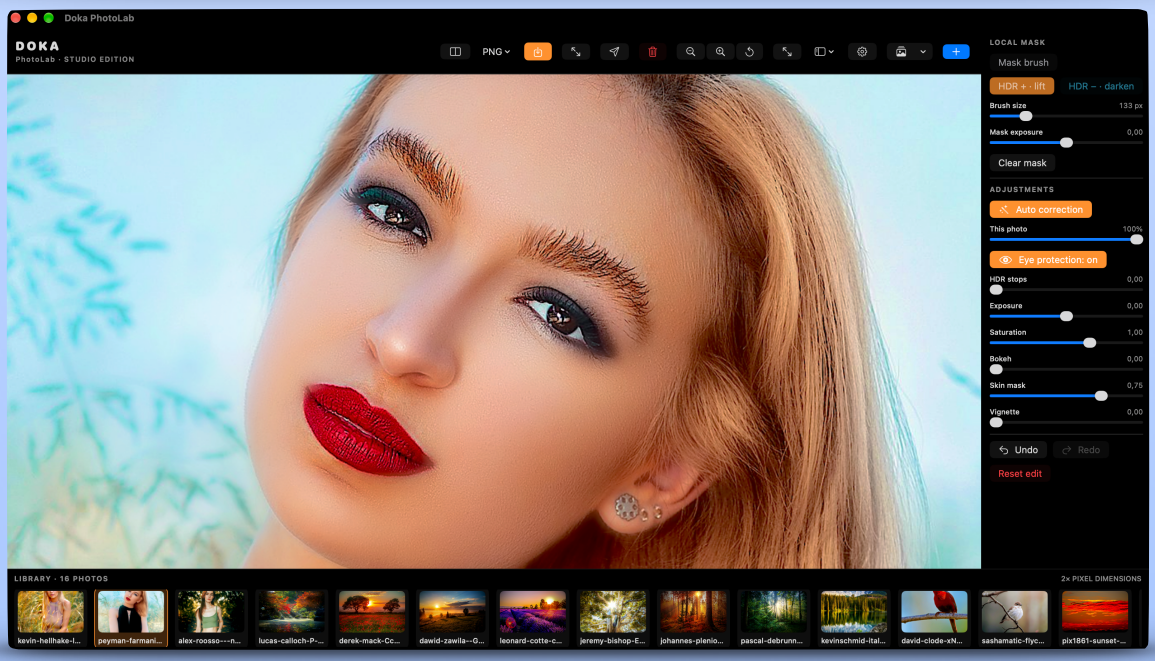


Skin mask

Some like to see very smooth spotless skin on their models. To achieve that, you can use Skin mask.

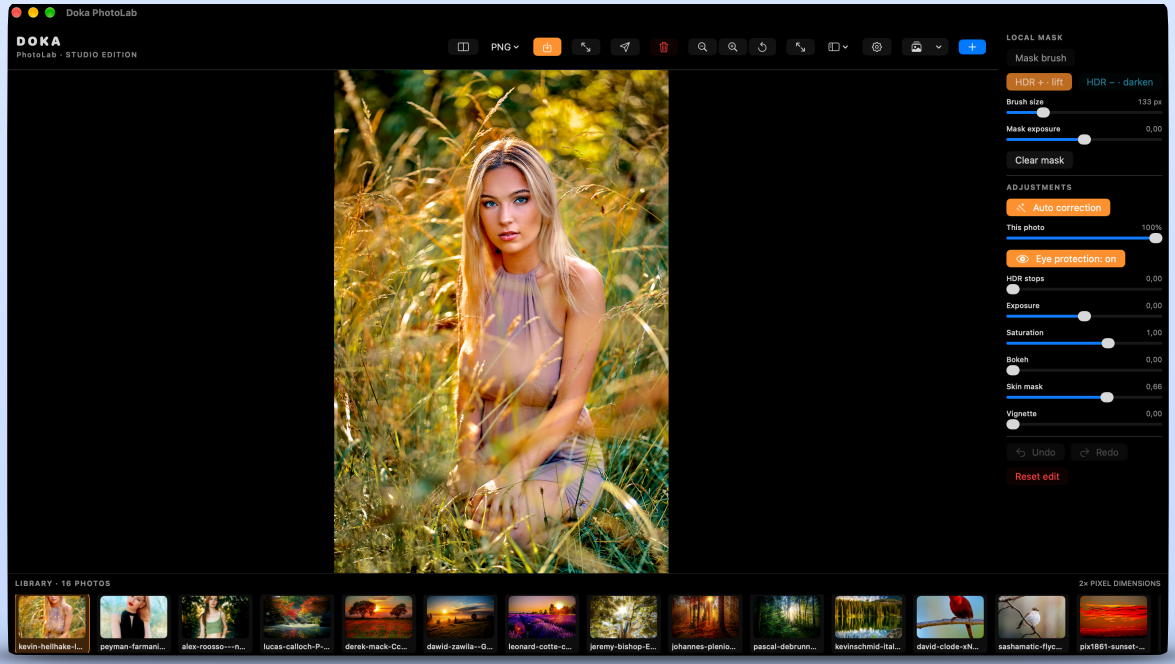
In the next examples you see a before and after.

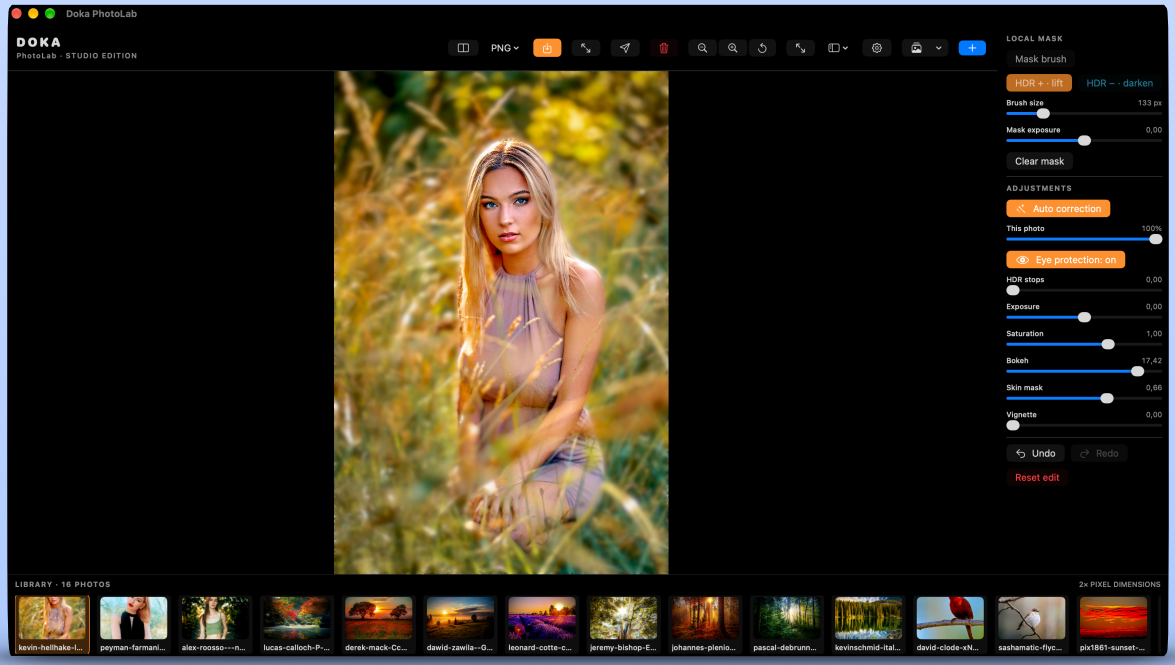




Bokeh

To enhance depth in portraits, consider applying a bokeh effect. Below is a before-and-after comparison illustrating the result.





Export and share options

Doka PhotoLab offers multiple options for exporting and sharing your enhanced photos. Before exporting, you must select the desired image format. TIFF is recommended for the highest quality, while PNG provides a more lightweight file. After choosing the format, you can download the image at its original size by clicking the button or at twice the original size by selecting the button.

You also have the option to share your enhanced files. To do so, click the share button . A popup window will appear, allowing you to choose a sharing method, such as email.

Helpdesk

Please have no hesitation to reach out to us with any inquiries or suggestions for new features.

https://www.enlightenment.school/contact.html

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