JR 8K Skies #01

Introduction

This asset pack, compatible with all Affinity apps but primarily intended for Affinity Photo, contains 108 sky images, all at a resolution of 8000x6000 pixels for landscape variants and 6000x8000 pixels for portrait variants.

All images are encoded using lossless compression: this ensures maximum quality and minimises banding artefacts.

Once installed, they can be easily dragged or placed into a document as a replacement for the existing sky detail. The 8K resolution means they can be used with 40-50 megapixel imagery without compromising sharpness or detail.

Additionally, each sky asset comes with several nested layers that can be enabled and modified to help blending with the foreground: these include **Horizon Fill** that helps blend with brighter horizon lines; **Long Exposure**, which mimics a long exposure effect; **Structure**, which enhances the structural detail of clouds, and more.

Please note: these assets require version 1.10.0 or higher of the Affinity apps.

Installation

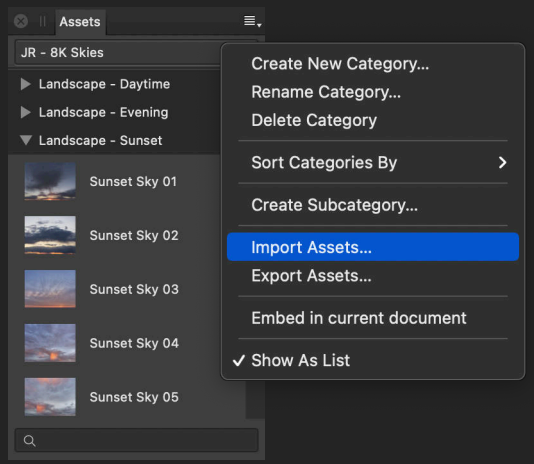
1. Extract the *JR 8K Skies 01.afassets* file to a directory of your choice.

2. In your Affinity app, open the **Assets** panel—if it is not already available, go to **View>Studio>Assets** to enable it.

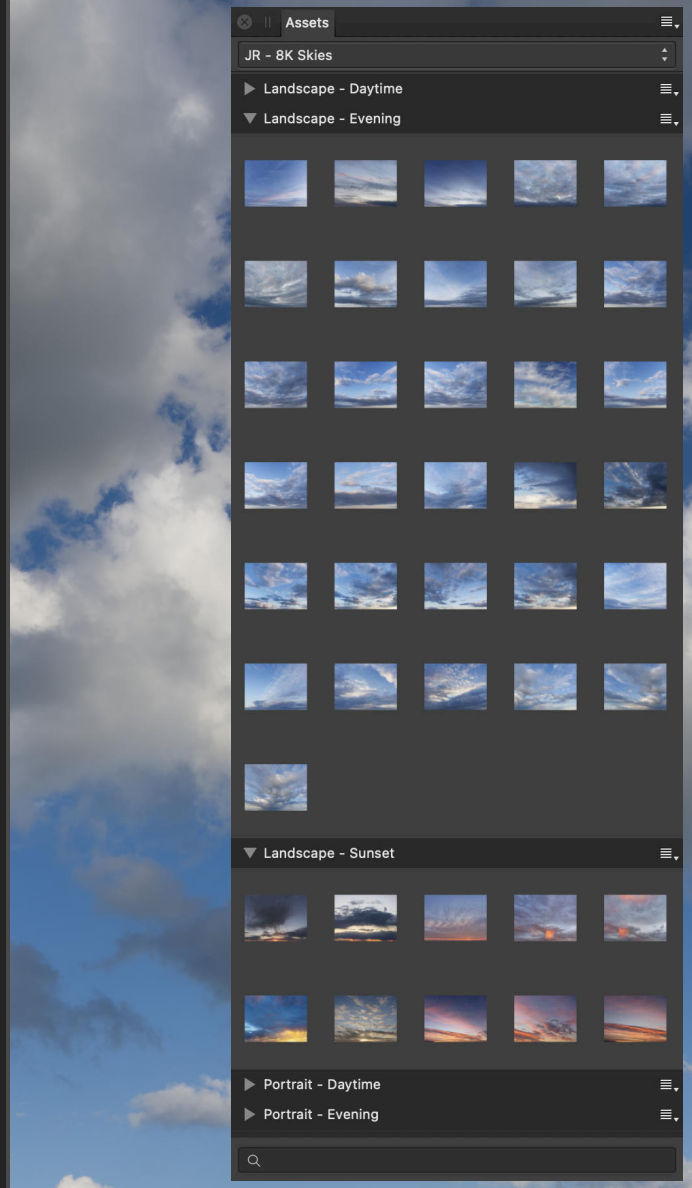
3. Click the options menu at the top right of the panel and choose **Import Assets...**

4. From the file dialog, choose the *JR 8K Skies 01.afassets* file and click **Open**.

5. The assets will now be imported.



Tip: you can also import .afassets files by click-dragging them from your file browser (Finder on macOS, Explorer on Windows) onto the user interface of the open Affinity app. Once you release the mouse button, the assets will be imported and the **Assets** panel will immediately be shown if it is not already active.



Usage

Using the sky images provided in the asset pack is just a straightforward case of dragging them onto your document or image.

To remove or mask out the original sky, you may need to use some selection techniques. If you are not familiar with how to replace skies, I would recommend watching my official Affinity Photo tutorial called Sky Replacement here: https://youtu.be/Jx5WoCTbs-I.

To use the assets:

1. Prepare your image for a replacement sky: for traditional photography, this may require masking or selection refinement.

2. On the **Assets** panel with the *JR - 8K Skies 01* category selected, expand one of the sub-categories such as *Landscape - Daytime* and browse the available assets.

    - Tip: you can click on the menu button and enable **Show As List View** which will present a single column-based list with the asset names next to the thumbnail.

3. Once you find a sky you wish to use, either:

    - Click-drag the asset from the **Assets** panel onto your document and release the mouse button. This will place it at its full resolution, and you can then scale and reposition it to fit your composition...

    - Or double-click the asset on the **Assets** panel. This will switch to the **Place Image Tool**. Now you can click-drag to define the initial size at which the asset is placed, then release the mouse button to commit. Alternatively, you can single click to place the asset at its full resolution. To quickly preview the asset before placing it, hold **Ctrl**.

5. When the sky is placed, you can expand the image layer to find various non-destructive 'helper' layers. For example:

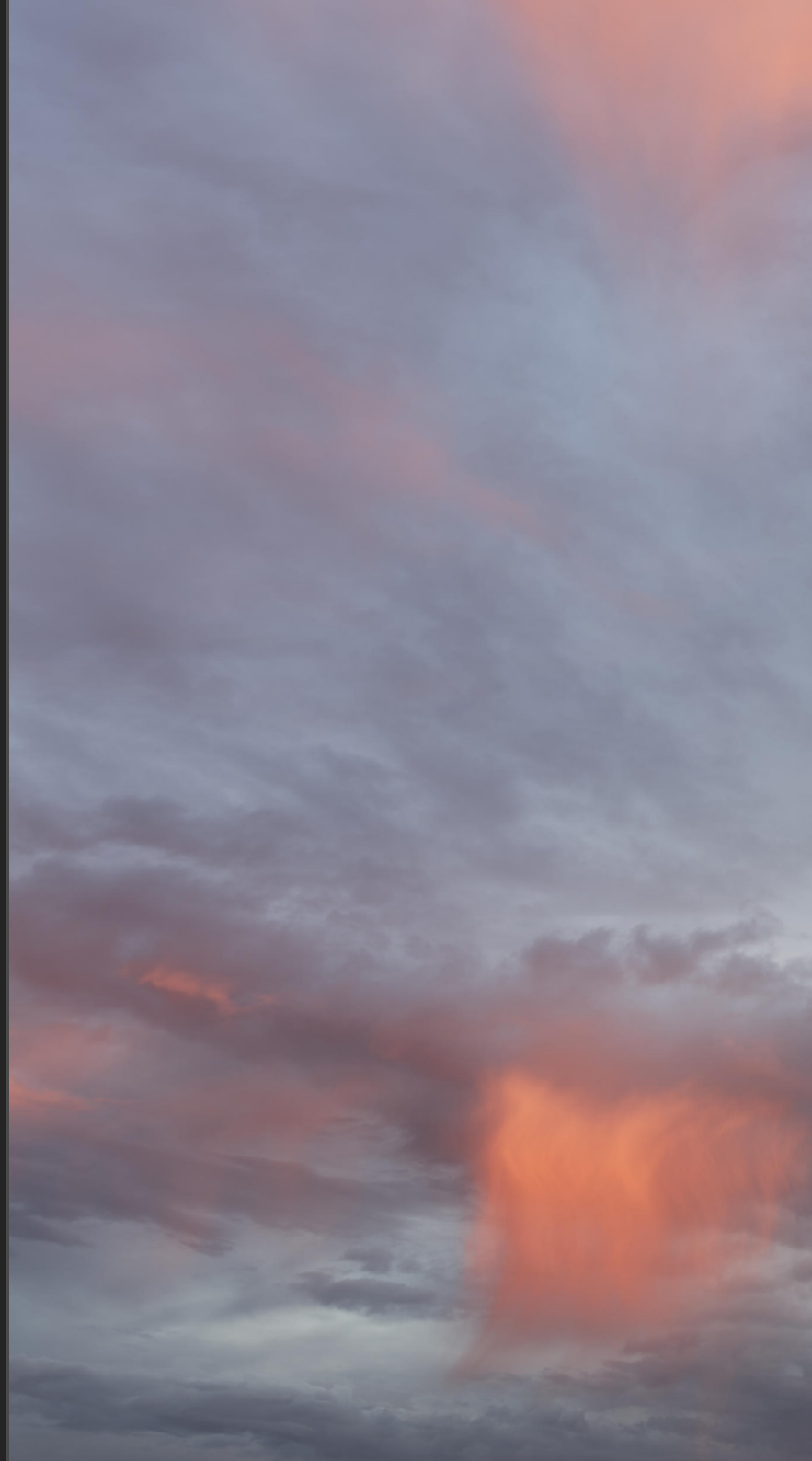
    - **Horizon Fill** creates a gradient brightening effect from the bottom of the sky towards the top. This helps it blend with the foreground in the majority of landscape photography scenarios.

    - **Structure** enhances structure and texture, especially in the cloud detail.

    - **White Balance** quickly allows you to tone match the sky with the foreground detail.

    - **Long Exposure** uses live motion blur to simulate a long exposure look.

    - **Brightness & Contrast** helps to match the sky tonally with the foreground based on brightness and contrast.



Credits

All images sourced and edited by James Ritson.