

# Cinematic Effects Kit – Guide



# GUIDE

## What is the Cinematic Effects Kit?

An all-in-one Kit for Luminar Neo helps you achieve the best photos in a specific genre and setting. Each Kit includes a preparation guide with practical tips as well as post-processing assets. Think of a Kit as a toolbox with various instruments that let you experiment and achieve the effects you want in your photos. Kits are perfectly suited for everyday editing but also let you try on the role of a professional photographer.

### — What is included in the Cinematic Effects Kit?

- 5 LUTs with unique color solution
- 7 Overlays with anamorphic lens flares
- 5 Overlays with seeping light element
- 3 Overlays with bokeh effects
- 1 professional editing guide with tips and step-by-step instructions

### — What photos can I create with this Kit?

When people think of cinematic photography, what comes to mind is an impactful story, a vivid picture, and something that will stay in their soul for a very long time. Learn to create images that convey that feeling of wonder when you simply cannot stop looking at a photo and conjuring up exciting theories about the details you see while enjoying the aesthetic pleasure of a well-balanced, colorful shot.

This Kit will help you create photos that immerse your viewer in a world of cinematic wonder with dramatic lighting, high contrast, and vivid color saturation. Whether you're a hobbyist willing to experiment with your photos or an experienced photographer who already knows all the best practices, you'll discover helpful tips to apply to your process and tools to help you deliver breathtaking cinematic photos.

— What can I achieve with this Kit?

Mix these LUTs with 7 Overlays with anamorphic lens flares, 5 Overlays with seeping light elements, and 3 Overlays with bokeh effects to achieve the exact result you want. With these Overlays, you can create captivating light effects, blur the details in the background with bokeh, or easily add a unique anamorphic light, giving your photos a completely fresh atmosphere.

Experiment with 5 additional LUTs for interesting color solutions. Mix and match the LUTs with the other assets for the best results.



# GUIDE

## Interview with Alexey Prokopenko

Let's hear from Alexey Prokopenko, the leading creator of the Cinematic Effects Kit, about how to create an impressive cinematic photo.



**ALEXEY PROKOPENKO**  
Colorist & Photo Retoucher

Alexey has extensive experience in photography and started professional retouching over five years ago. He uses photography as a means of self-expression and is passionate about photos that, at first glance, appear meaningless (defective shots that are out of focus, blurred, overexposed, unlit, noisy), photos with unusual compositions or unusual themes, as well as photos of ordinary life that are recreated unusually and make you turn on your imagination.

— What is cinematic photography to you?

I love the cinema and I'm constantly inspired by it. For me, a movie is a way to convey the atmosphere and to tell a story. Cinematic photography achieves the same effect but with the help of photos and, of course, it couldn't exist without photo editing.

— What inspired you to create this Luminar Kit?

Sometimes I watch videos on YouTube about the making of movies that interest me. I often see that such effects as Light Rays and Lens Flares are added in post-production. This gave me the idea to create this Luminar Kit, for creating cinematic photos, and help anyone achieve the same effect in their own photography. The Luminar Kit combines color correction in a cinematic style and Overlays with special effects.

What can I achieve with this Kit?

This Luminar Kit is designed to help you stylize your photos to make them look like stills from iconic movies that one simply can't take their eyes off.



— What photos will work best with this Kit?

You can experiment with any photo, but photos with backlight or those with available light sources in the frame will work the best. This is because you can apply the lens flare Overlays. However, it's also fine if the light source is outside of the frame, then you can use the Light Elements Overlays to make the light seep into the image. They also work well for photos with windows.

— What lighting conditions is this Kit good for?

The pack is perfect for both photos with evening lighting and with outdoor shots, as well as for photos with light seeping from a window.

— Can this Kit be used with photos of people?

Yes, of course! We designed this kit paying attention to the skin tone and the enhancement of people thanks to built-in portrait features.

— How can I use the 5 LUTs?

LUTs can be used both in Luminar Neo and in other applications that support LUTs, such as Photoshop, DaVinci Resolve, Premiere Pro, After Effects, and other software. They are also designed to give your photos a cinematic feel in just a few clicks.

— What effects can you achieve with the 7 Overlays with anamorphic lens flares?

With the help of these Overlays, you can add the specific effect of the anamorphic lens to your photo. Anamorphic lenses are specialty tools which affect how images get projected onto the camera sensor. They were primarily created so that a wider range of aspect ratios could fit within a standard film frame, but since then, cinematographers have become accustomed to their unique look.

— What about the 5 Overlays with seeping light elements?

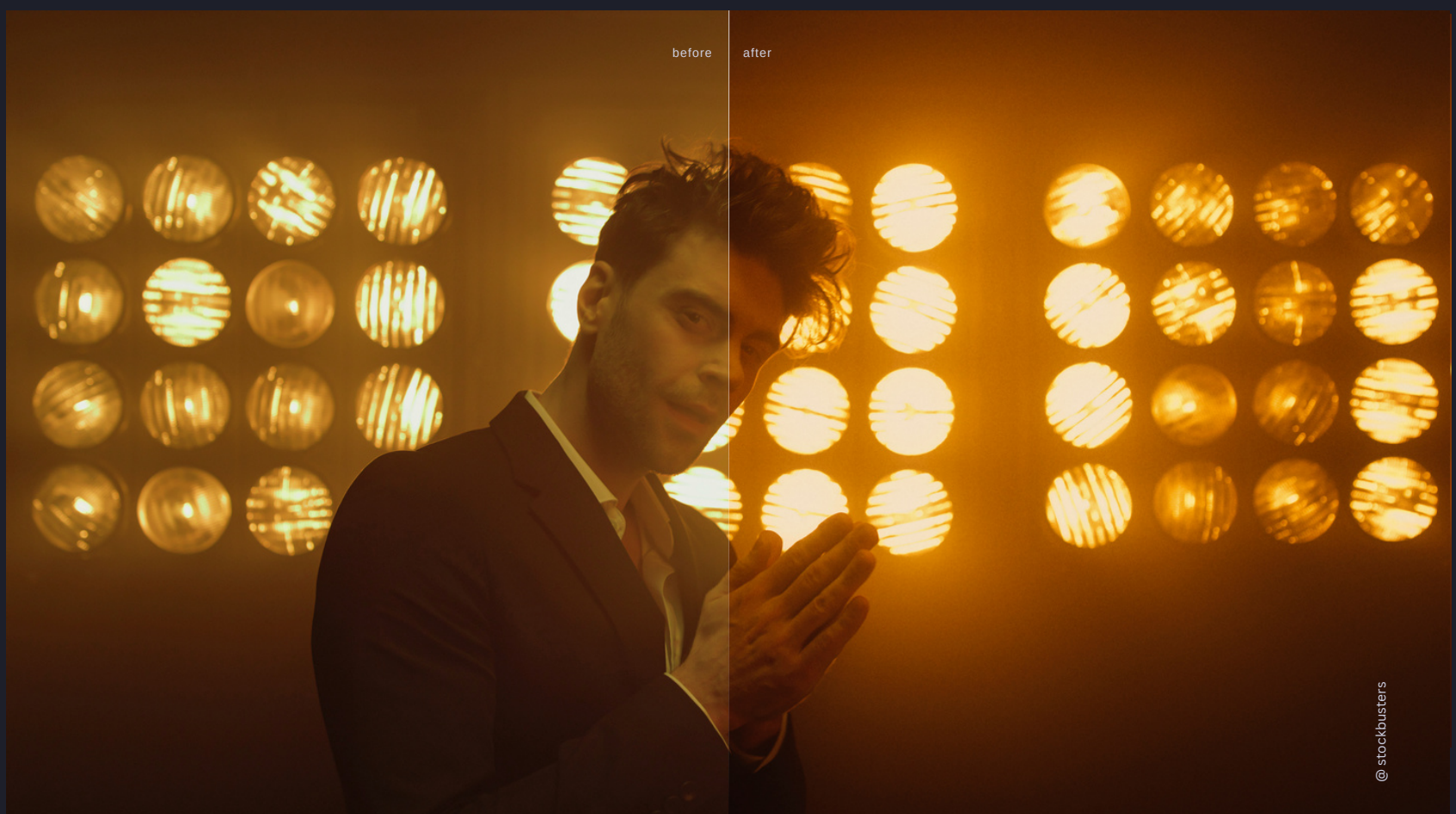
These Overlays provide the effect of atmospheric light seeping in your frame. This light looks like it comes from light sources outside the frame, like windows, open doors, lamps positioned outside of the room, and so on.

— And what about the 3 Overlays with bokeh effects?

The bokeh effect is famous for adding a characteristic blur to the background of your photo, putting the focus on the subject. These Overlays help you stylize the photo, create the perspective in the frame and provide additional volume.

— How do you see the ideal editing workflow with this Kit?

First of all, choose photos that already are similar to stills from a movie, for example, they have an interesting composition or subject. If you're at a loss for ideas, get inspired by your favorite movie, and look for references within it. What are some of the scenes you like best? What makes the movie truly iconic? After you have your photos ready, choose a LUT that would best convey the mood and atmosphere of the story taking place in the photo. If necessary, you can tweak the adjustments and edit the photo according to the exposure and color. And then stylize the overall effect, and enhance the photo further with the provided Overlays. Check out the step-by-step instructions to find out how to use the Overlays in the best way.



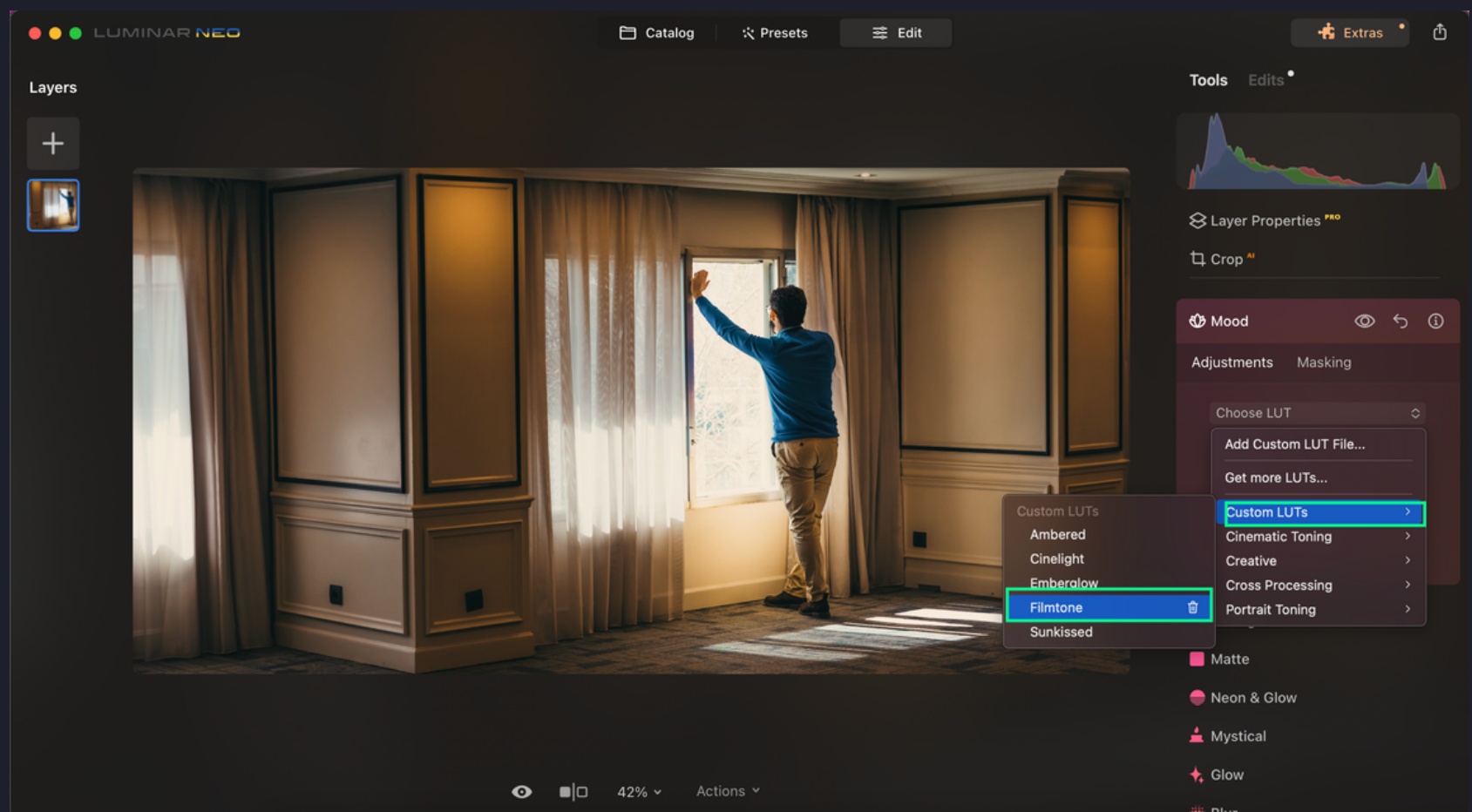
## Second Part: Step-by-Step Instructions

Now we invite you to immerse yourself in the process of preparing for a cinematic photo shoot.

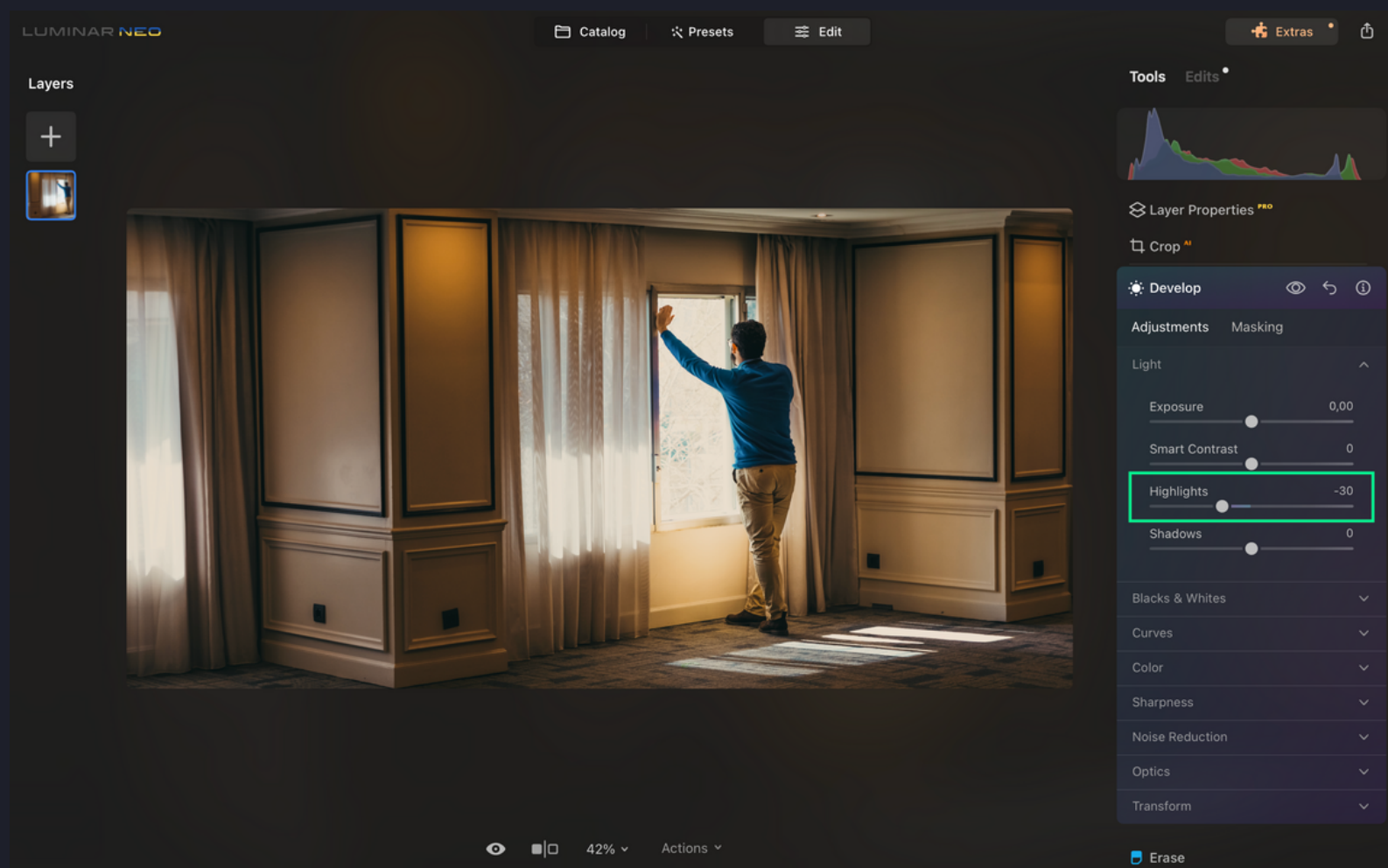
— How to apply creative assets to your photos

Add a LUT to your photo, and an Overlay with light elements.

1. Choose a LUT for your photo (learn how to use the Mood Tool for LUTs).

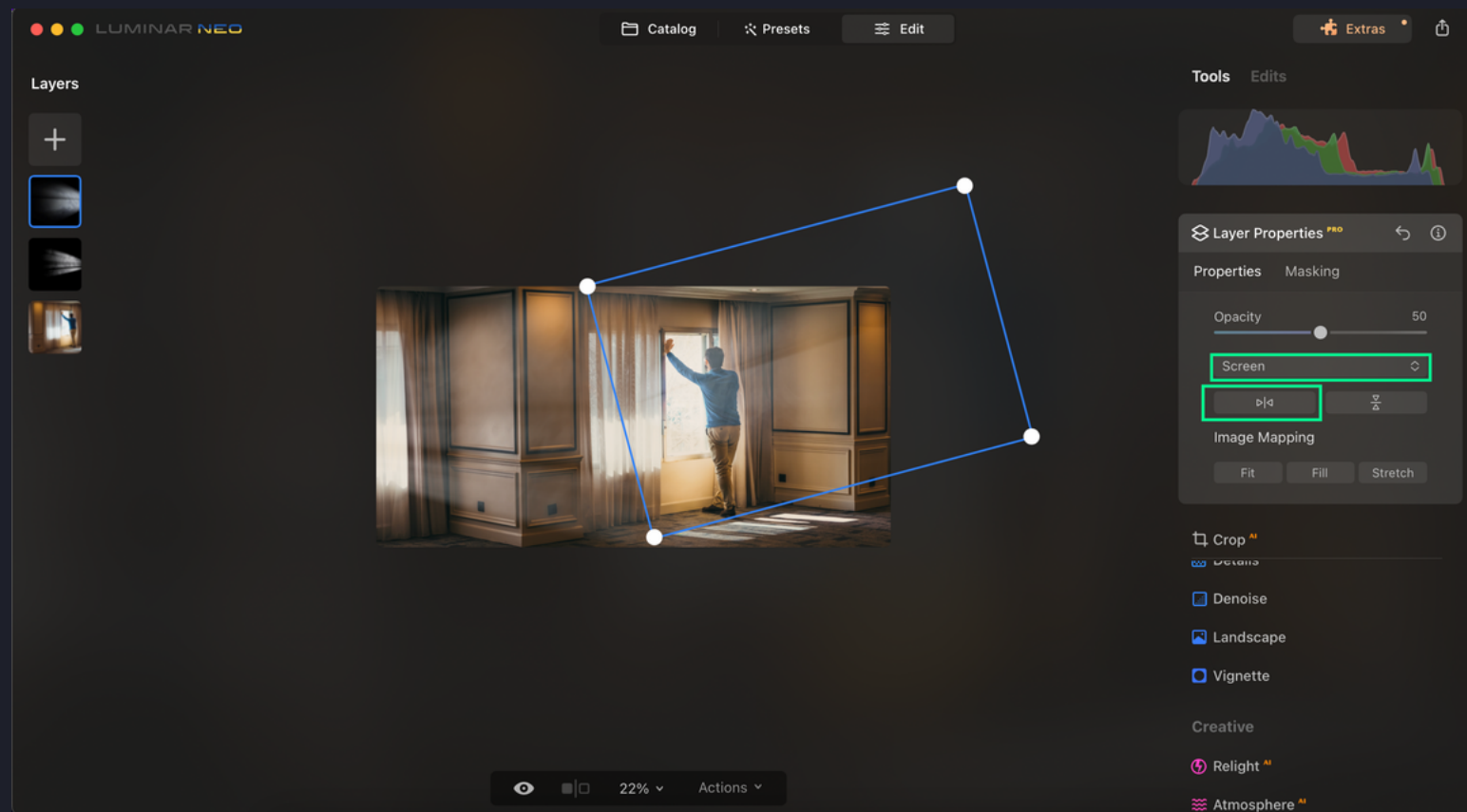


2. Adjust the Exposure and Highlights if needed.

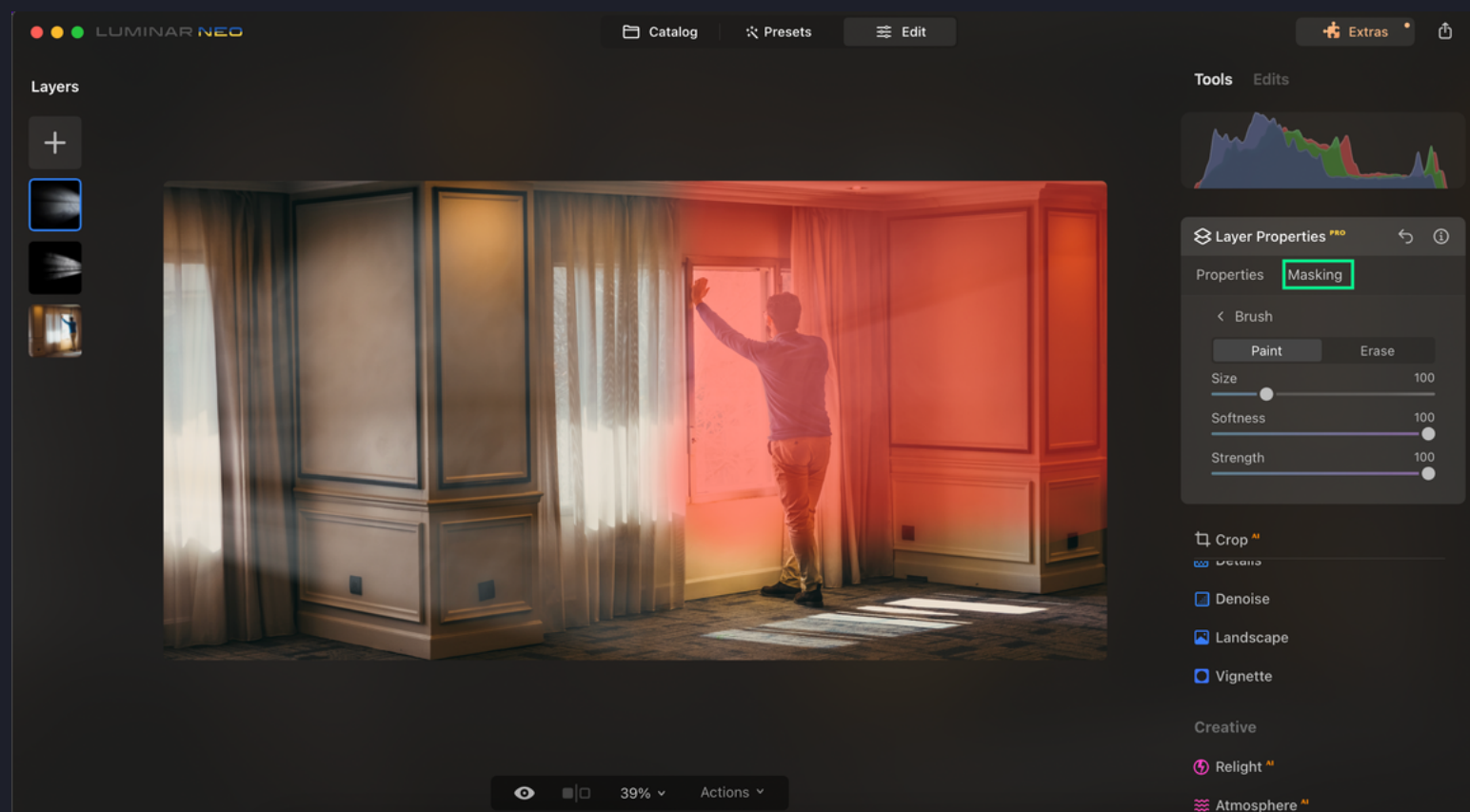




Add an Overlay with light leaks (learn how to use Layers for adding Overlays), and position it according to the source of light.

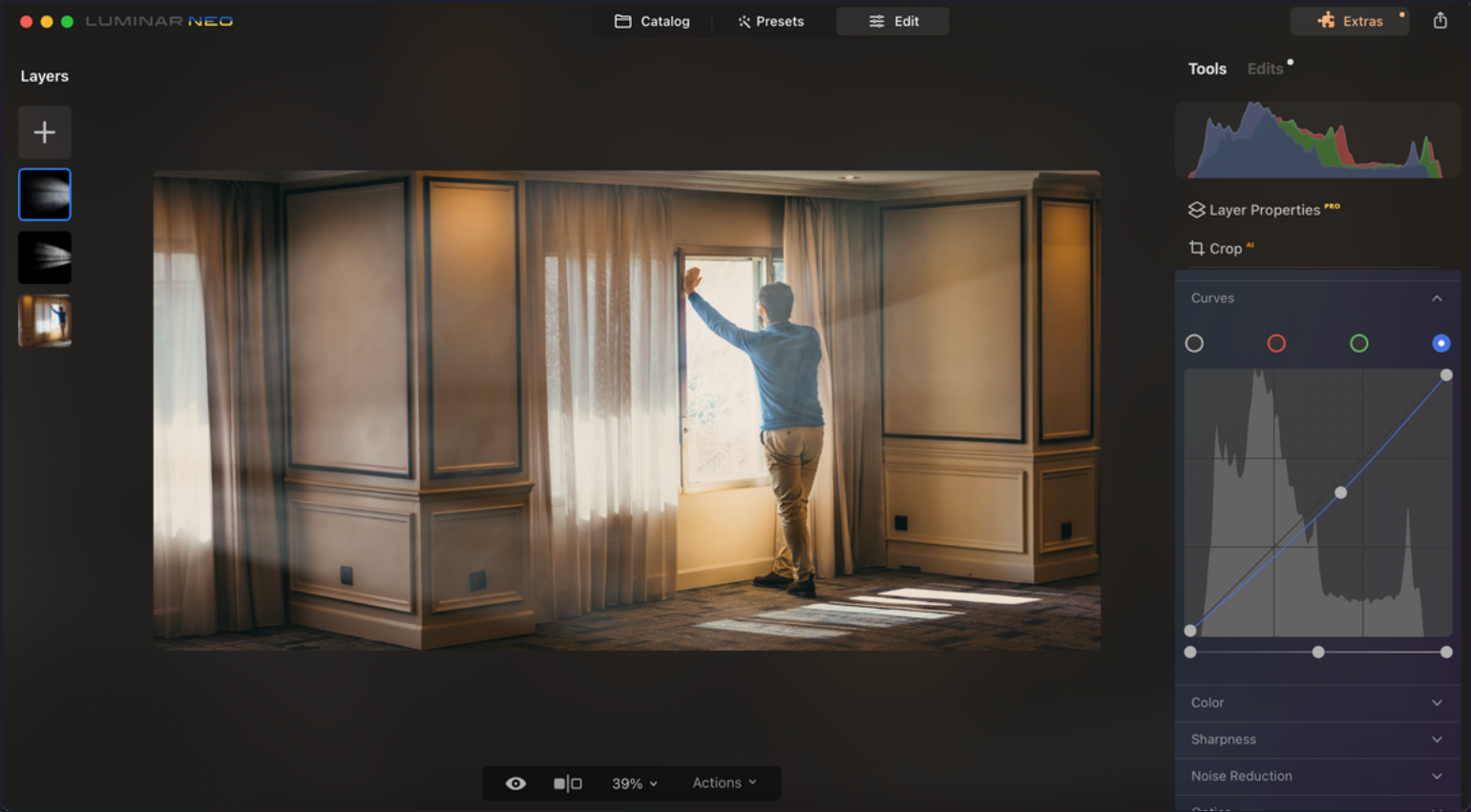


4. Use Masking to erase any unnecessary parts if needed.



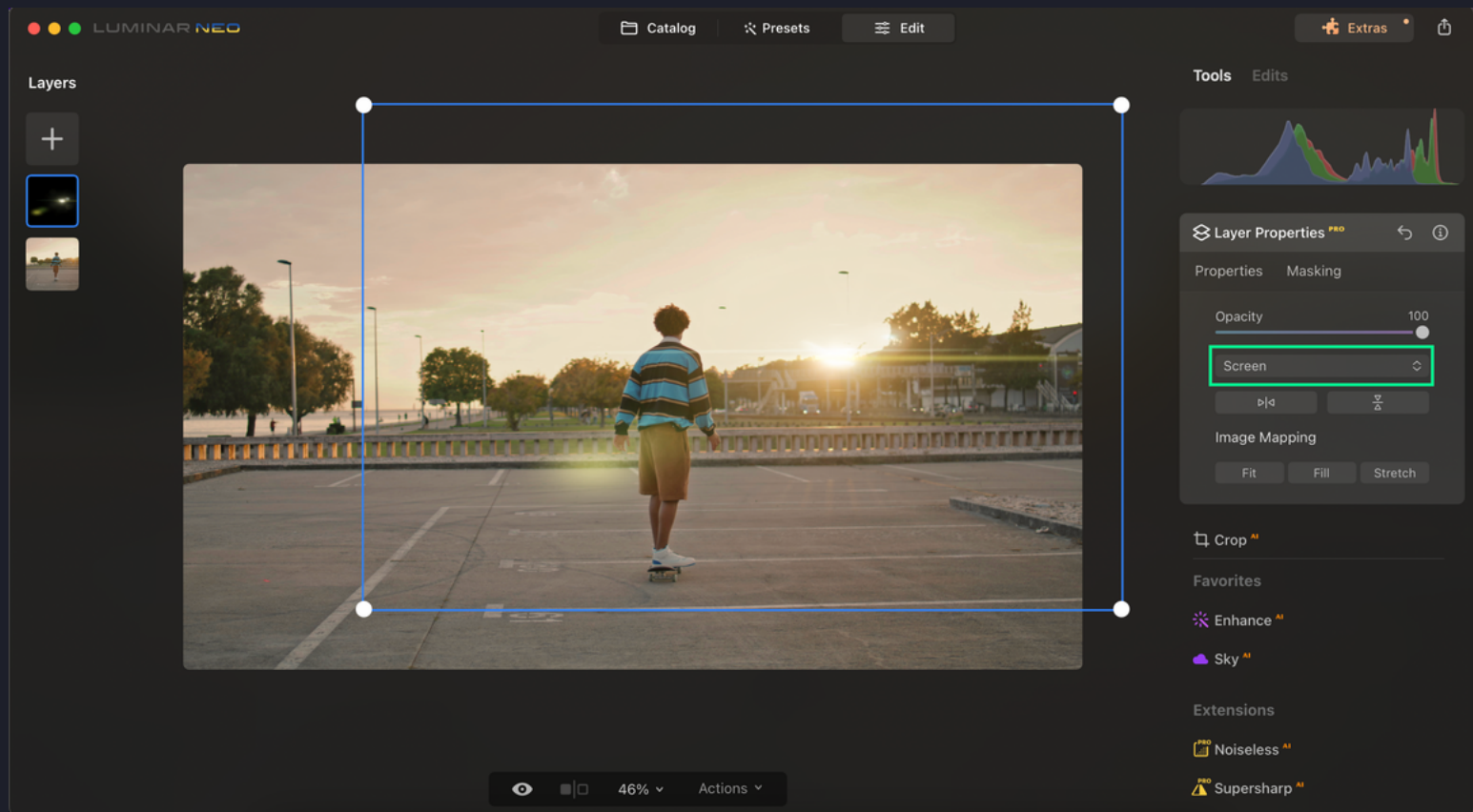


Use Curves to adjust the color to match the photo. Lower the blue curve to give the Overlay a yellowish tone.

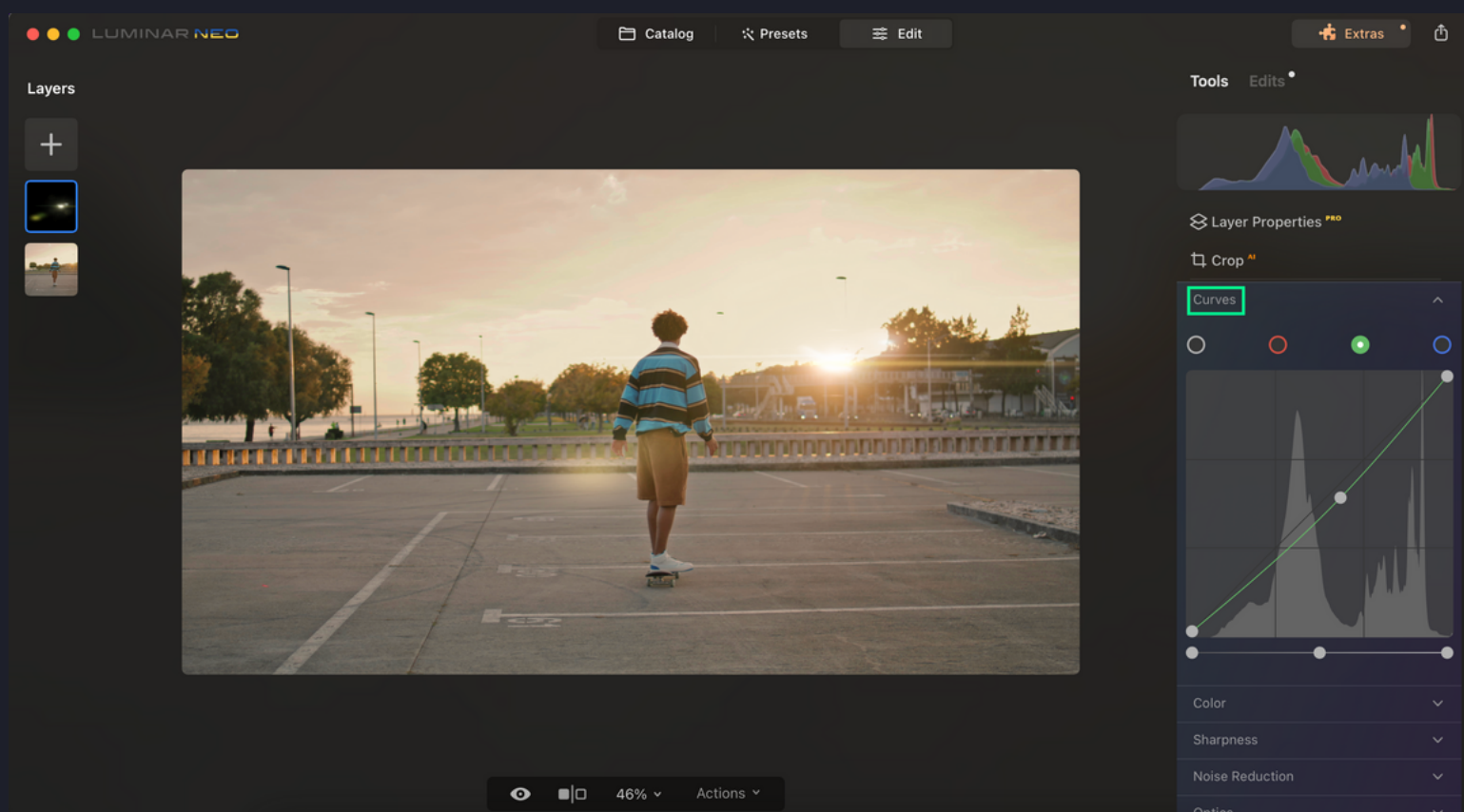


## — Add an Anamorphic Lens Flare Overlay

Add an Overlay with anamorphic lens flares (learn how to use Layers for adding Overlays), and position it directly on the source of light.

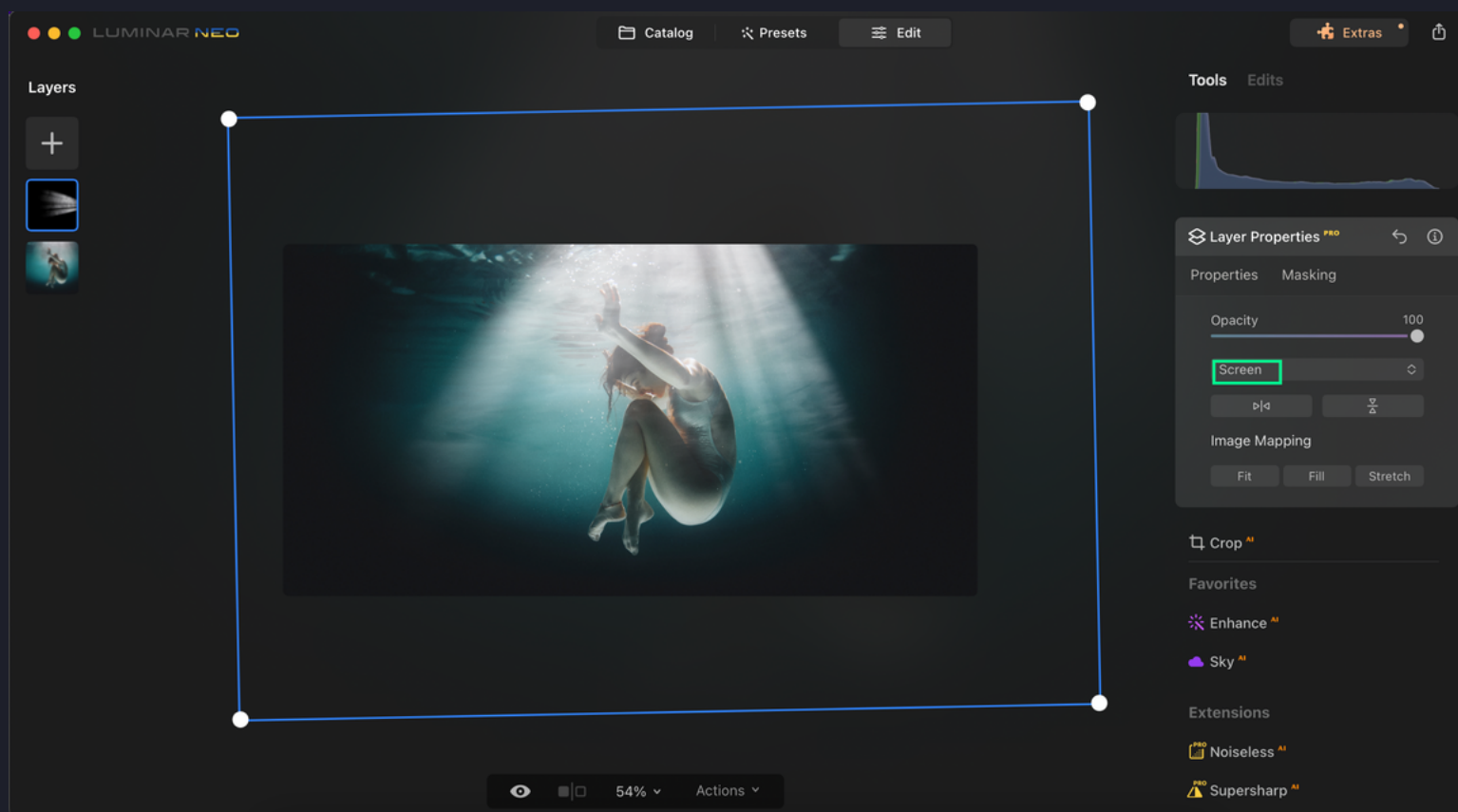


Adjust the color to match the photo using Highlights and Curves.

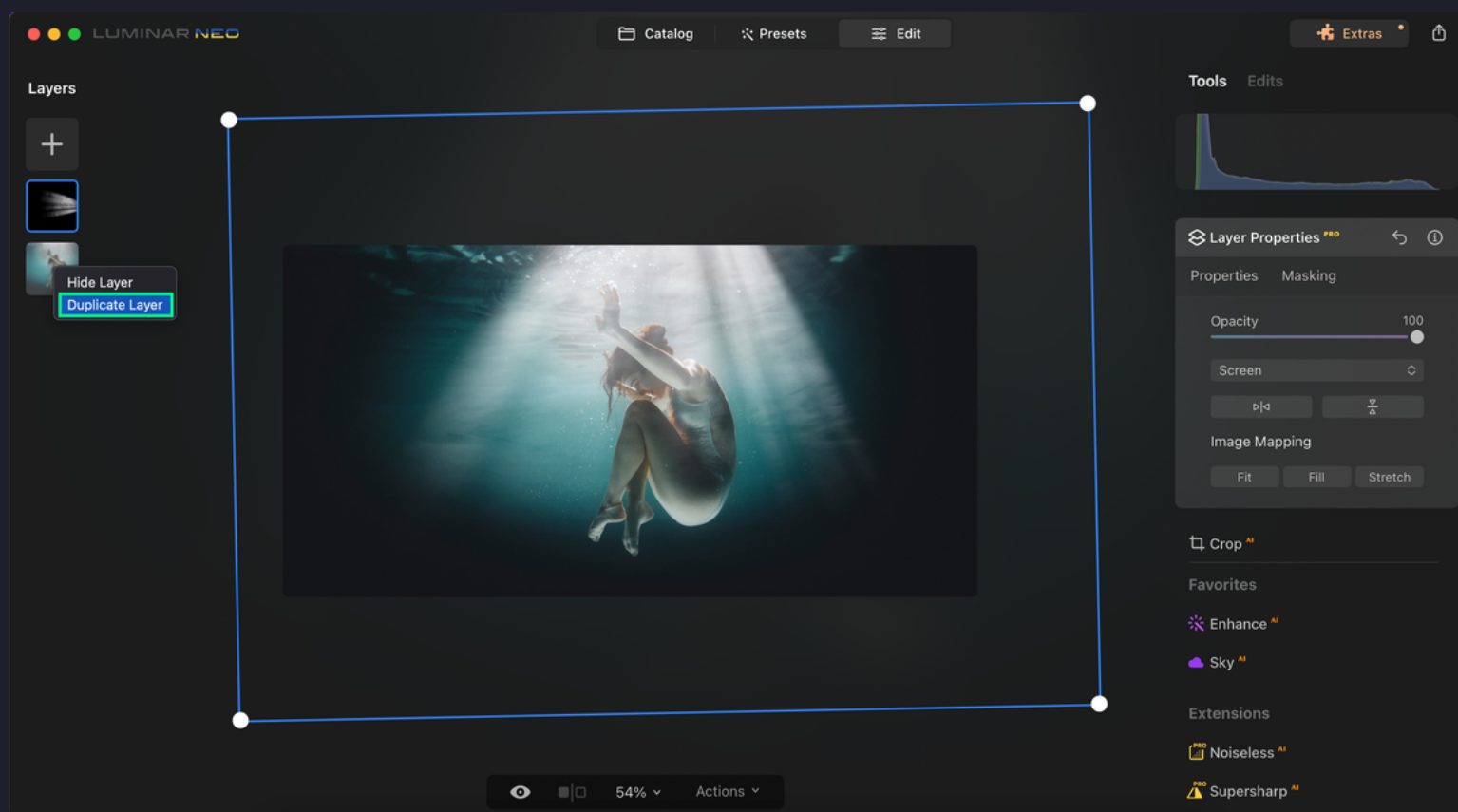


— Extra Tip: How to add an Overlay and give realistic volume to your photo

1. Add an Overlay and choose the Screen blend mode

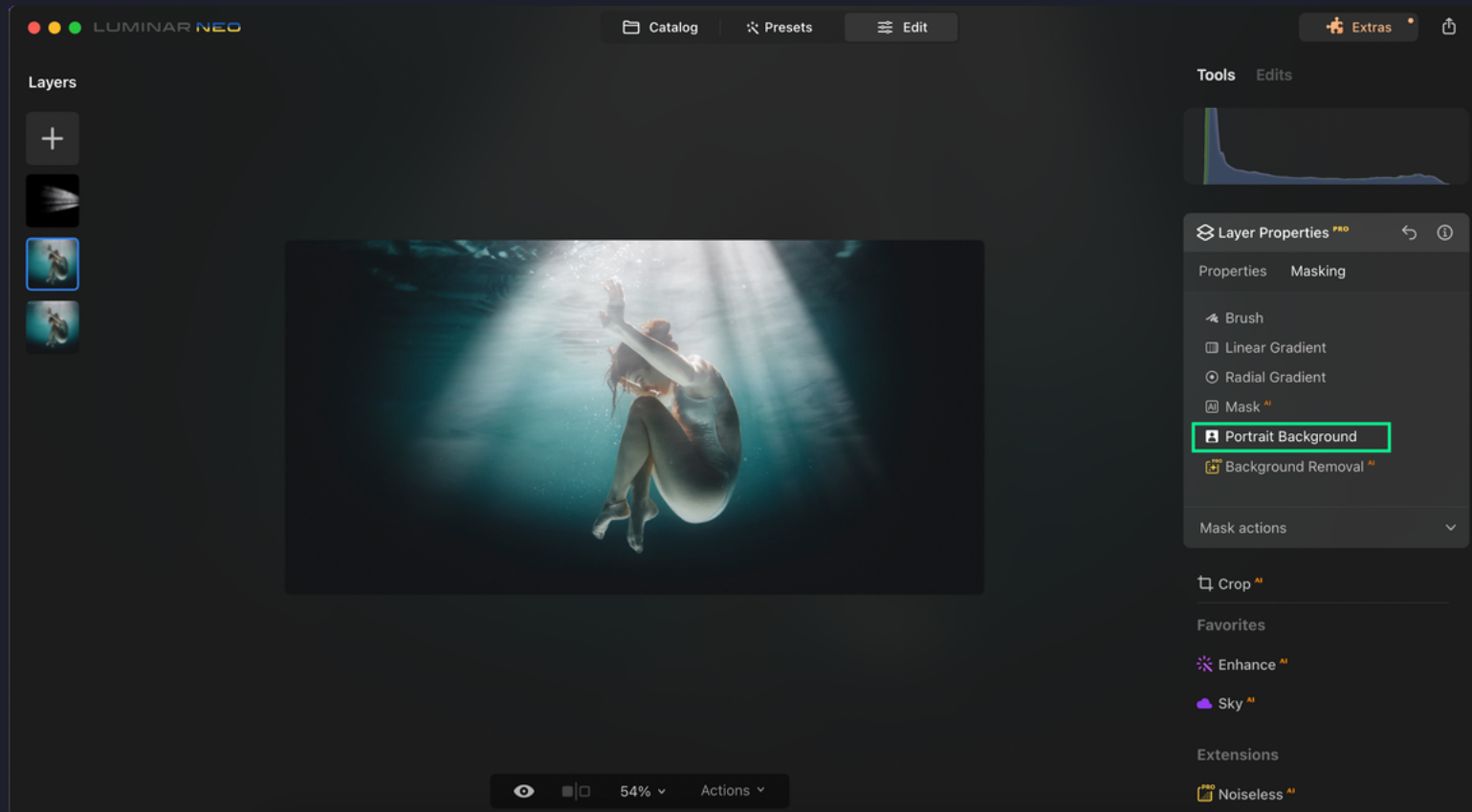


2. Duplicate the Layer with the original photo

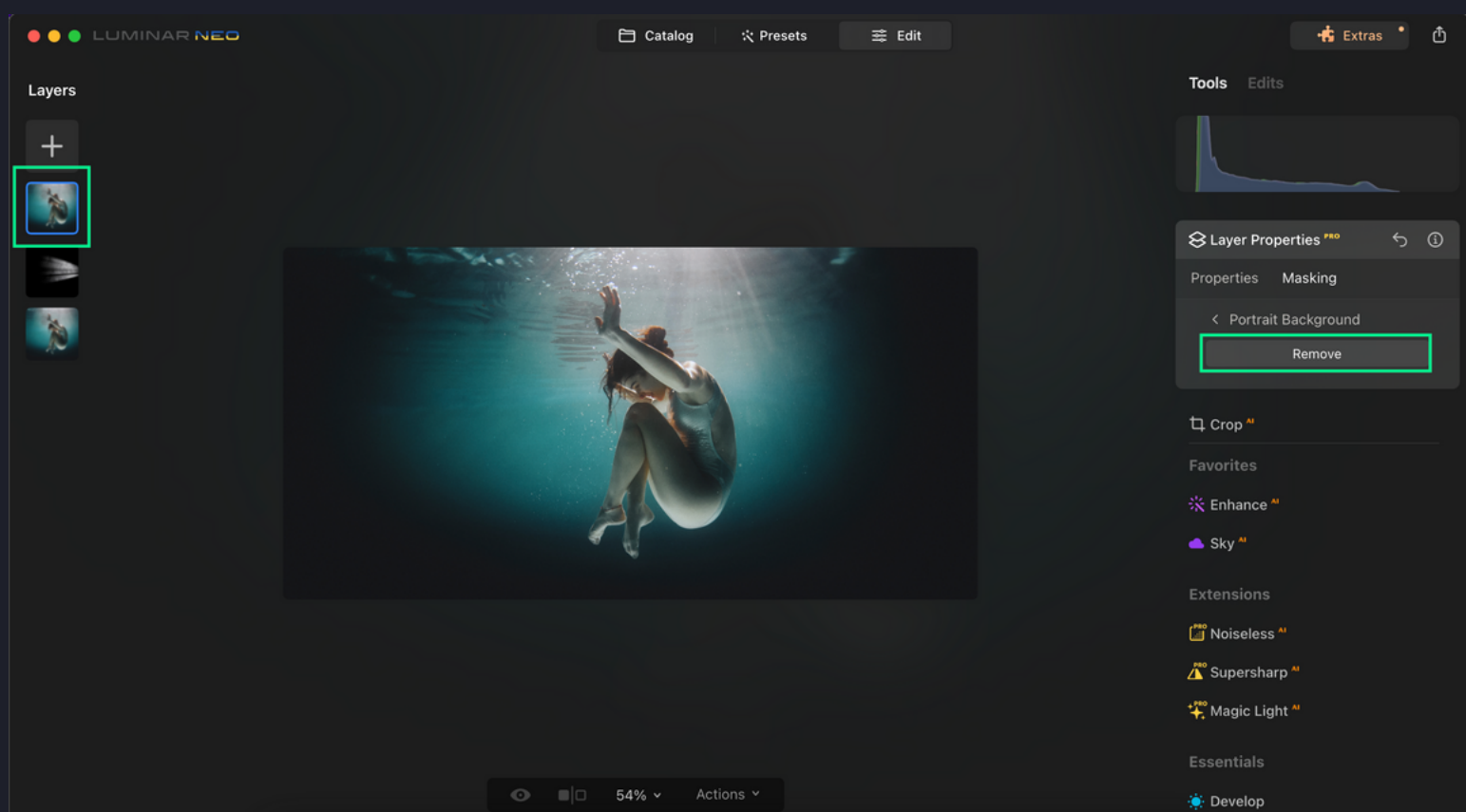




Access Masking in the Layer Properties of the duplicated photo and click Portrait Background

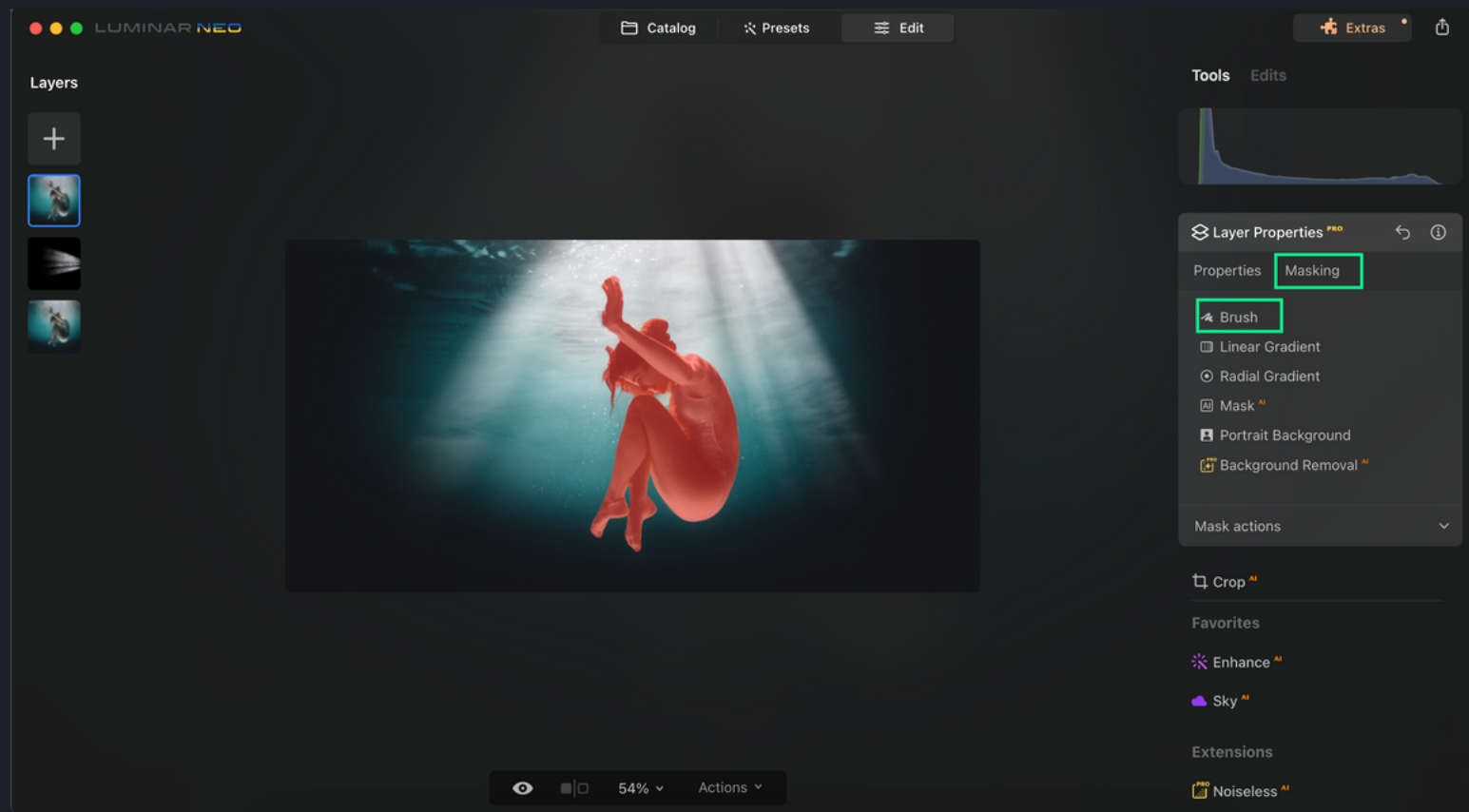


After Luminar Neo detects your background, click Remove, and move the Layer with the photo on top of the Layer with the Overlay. After that, the model will appear in the foreground, in front of the rays of light

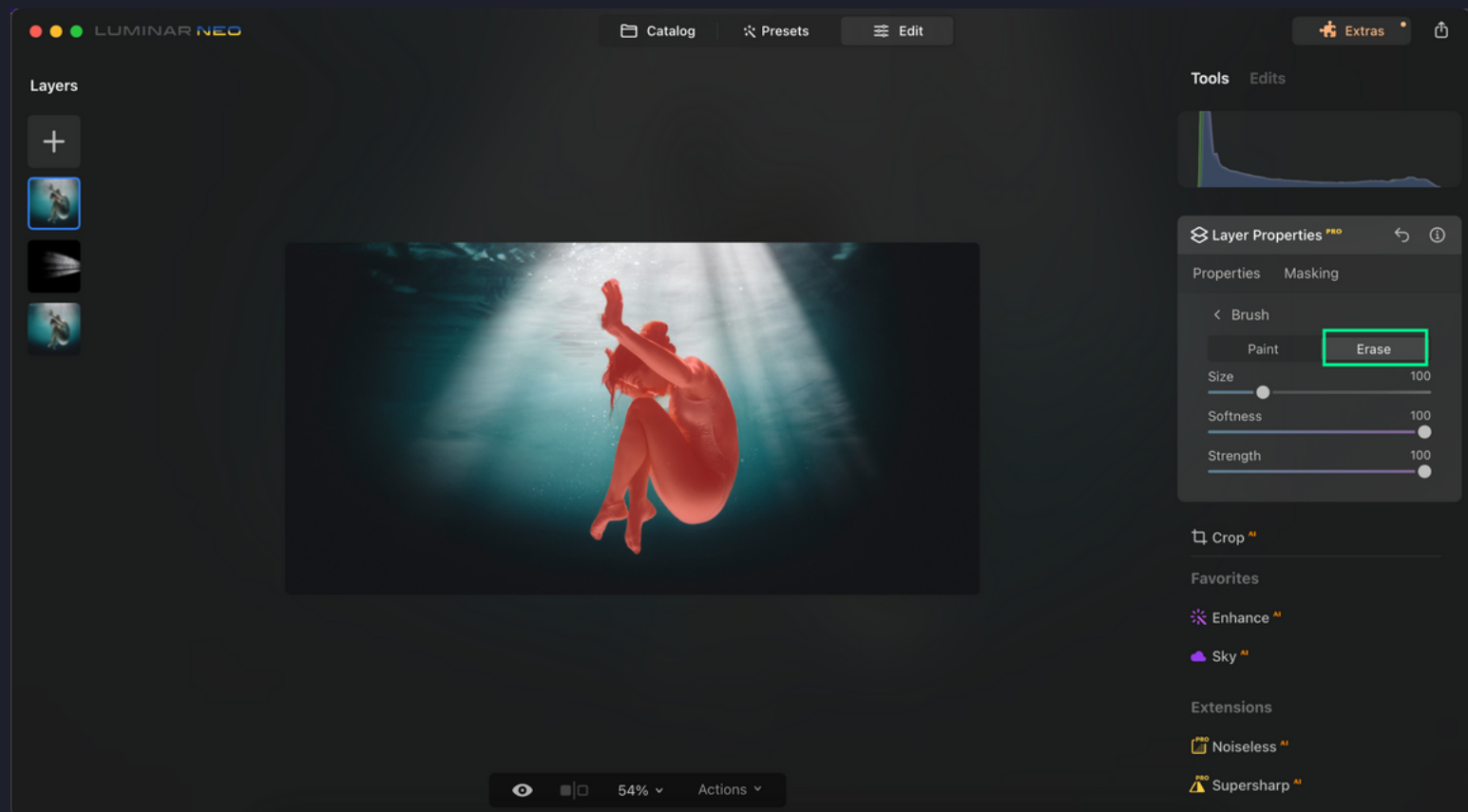




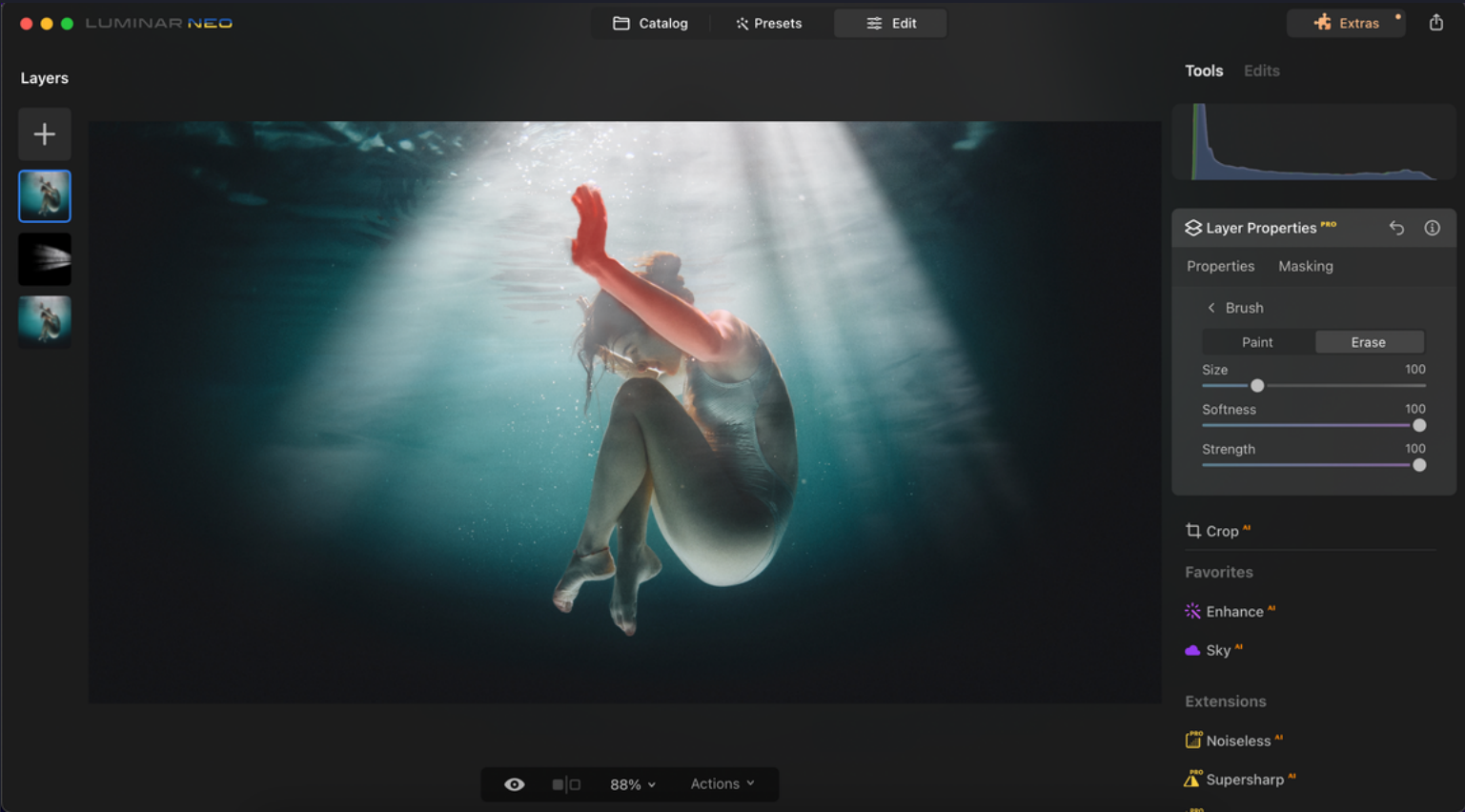
5. Return to Masking, and click Brush



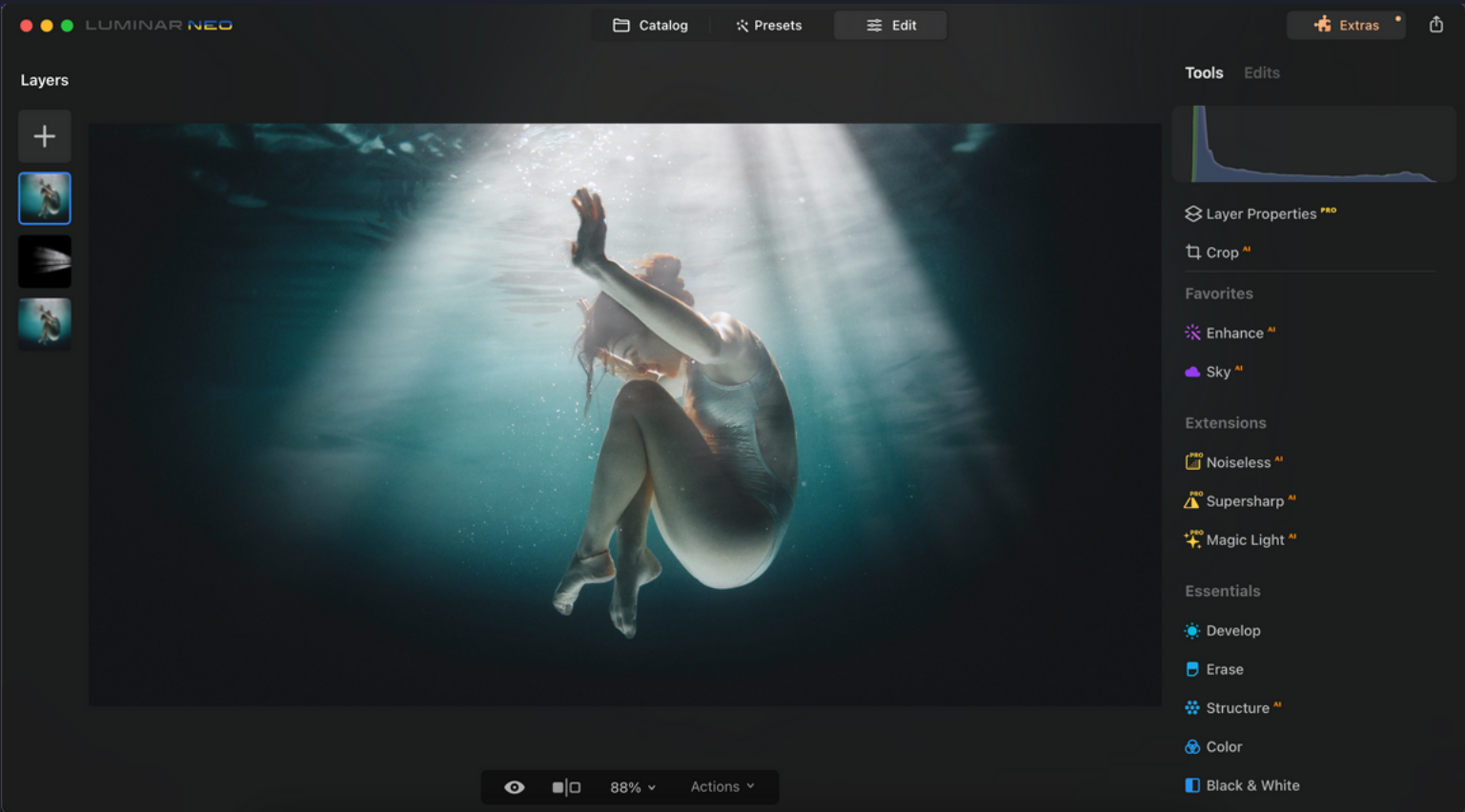
6. Choose Erase to remove all the unnecessary details



Erase the small details, making sure to leave the hand that is closer to the shooting point.



By doing so, we've created a sunrays effect and gave the photo additional realistic volume.




Happy creating!

# Meet the Content Team at Skylum:



**ALEXEY PROKOPENKO**  
Colorist & Photo Retoucher


Alexey has extensive experience in photography and started professional retouching over five years ago. He uses photography as a means of self-expression and is passionate about photos that at first glance appear meaningless (defective shots that are out of focus, blurred, overexposed, unlit, noisy), photos with unusual compositions or unusual themes, as well as photos of ordinary life that are recreated unusually and make you turn on your imagination.

 [Learn More →](#)



**OLEG KUPSHUKOV**  
Colorist & Photo Retoucher

Oleg works professionally in the field of video color correction, mainly creating music videos and advertisements. At 16 years old, he started filming clips on his camera. His passions include shooting action videos and flying FPV drones. As for photography genres, Oleg prefers lifestyle and loves when photos are retouched in a distinct cinematic style.

 [Learn More →](#)

— The professionals on the Skylum Team provide creative assets for the highest quality that are well-loved by Luminar artists around the world!

This is one in a line of Luminar Kits and the first product of its kind. We will continue sharing our vision and expertise in this format and on various topics, so stay tuned for Kits of other genres. We hope our Kits will inspire you to start your unique path in photography. Or, if you have been in the photography business for a long time, we hope they allow you to find new inspiration and ideas to create fantastic photos.