

Photograms / Rayographs

What is a Photogram/Rayograph?

Photograms or Rayographs are camera-less images created by placing objects on a photo sensitive surface and exposing them to light. Where the object touches the surface it will protect it from the light, leaving a white or pale grey impression (depending on its opacity). Anywhere the light strikes the paper will turn black.

How do you make a photogram?

Firstly you choose a series of objects. You arrange these objects on a piece of light sensitive photographic paper. This is then exposed to light for a few seconds. The paper is then taken over to the wet area of the darkroom and soaked in a series of chemicals. Here it is step by step:

1. Collect and bring in the items you want to use to create your image- 12 or more. Find something personal. You might not use them all but it is good to have options. These will create the designs and patterns on your Photogram.
2. Get a photo buddy for the darkroom and take your objects to one of the enlargers. Make sure the red safe light is on and the overhead lights off, get a test strip from the box (CLOSE THE BOX!) and put your name on the back. Create a test exposure to see how long you will need to have the enlarger light on. Try 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25 seconds.
3. Develop the test strip in the chemistry. Remember to keep the tongs with their chemistry- red for developer, white for stop bath, and blue for fixer/rinse. The test strip goes in the Developer first for 90 seconds, then the stop bath for 20-30 seconds, then fixer (fixer will ruin your clothing) for another 30 seconds, and finally a brief rinse. Put the test strip IN A TRAY and bring it out into the light. Show it to Mr. Craig and tell him which exposure you think is best.
4. With CLEAN DRY hands, get a piece of 8x10 photo paper from the box (CLOSE THE BOX!), put your name on the back, go back to the *same enlarger* and arrange your objects on your paper. Take your time composing your objects! Expose the paper for the time you determined using the test strip, then repeat the developing process, this time fixing for 3 minutes and rinsing in the final water bath for at least 5 minutes.
5. Let your partner have their turn, then switch back until you have each made at least 2 trying new objects and different arrangements.
6. Squeegee your print at the end of class and put it on the drying rack.

See the examples on the back

Recources:

<http://www.photograms.org/>

<http://www.illuminatednegatives.com/home.html>

Grading will be on the following: Completion & Creativity. This project is worth 30 points

Mr Craig's Film Photography

