

Assignment #3: 16mm Film Processing

As with the last assignment, this will be an in class project, so it is imperative that you attend the class, **September 27**, in order to receive credit for the assignment.

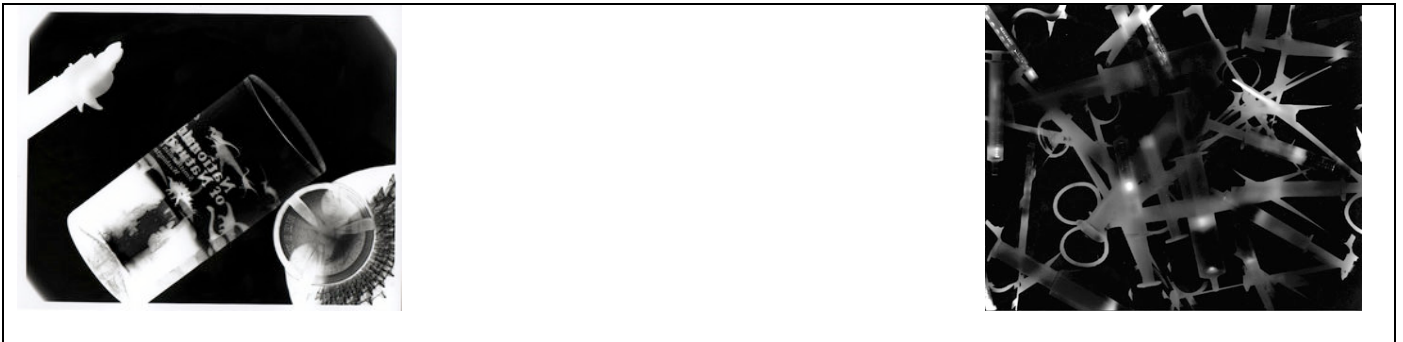
Each group will receive 1 minute (36 feet, divided into 8 sections of about 4.5 feet) of Kodak 7363 High Contrast Reversal film (rated ASA 4).

This black and white film stock, because of its contrasty nature, is designed for shooting titles. However, it is also an ideal stock for an introduction to film processing because the chemicals required for processing are relatively inexpensive, relatively safe and the film can be developed using a red safe-light (as opposed to requiring complete darkness like most other stocks). Thus, you will be able to see the actual process of your film developing. Keep in mind that what you get with this process is a *negative*.

For the demo, I will introduce and mix the chemicals we will be using and will demo the process so you will know what to expect. These chemicals are:

- Dektol developer: added to H₂O and designed for developing photographic paper but can also develop film.
- Fix: Added to H₂O and fixes the developed image. Without this, you might develop your image and see it under the red safe light but once you turned the overhead lights on, your image would be ruined.

For the demo, I will bring transparent (or semi-transparent) materials such as bubble wrap, salt, clear pushpins etc. as well as opaque materials, such as wire, keys, etc. to lay on a strip of unexposed film. Then, I will flash the filmstrip with a pin light to expose the film and finally I will develop the film. This is the process of creating Rayograms. See some examples of Rayograms, below and note the similarity to x-rays. *Keep in mind that we are working with a much smaller "canvas" (the 16mm frame) than the artist's below whose canvases were several square inches. So beware of using large opaque objects that dwarf the 16mm frame. With opaque objects, tinier is better.*



We will also explore the concept of contact printing: laying one strip of processed film with image on an unprocessed strip of hi-con film and exposing the hi-con to produce a negative of the original.

There are three components to this assignment. For the first component, Rayograms, you should meet with your group (either in person, via e-mail, phone, etc.) and decide what materials to bring: salt, beads, rice, transparent labels, etc. For the second component, I will give each group a strip of stock footage to contact print. Explore different ways in which this stock footage makes contact with the unexposed film (sometimes it can be flat against the film, sometimes it can twist off to one side.) The third component involves each of the four groups transferring the footage to video and assembling their processed footage and adding sound in such a way that it tells a story. This is part of assignment #3b, which we will discuss in class.

Assignment #3(both parts) will be due on Sony mini-dv tape on Thursday, **November 8**.