

# Photography 10 / Project 1

## The Photo Gram as Art – Lab Project

The goal of this assignment is to have you gain confidence in the print darkroom working on a relatively easy process that can have great artistic potential. The Photo Gram is a process where photographic paper is used along with common, or perhaps uncommon objects to create patterns.

These can be as simple or complex as you wish. Approach this project as an art form and it will make it more interesting.

Use solid, opaque or semi-transparent objects that will create interesting shapes and give you a unique vision. Don't just settle for what you find around here. I suggest you start with common objects do several Photo Grams to get familiar with the process and then move to more complex subjects once you have the hang of it.

Give me your best effort.

### **What you need to do this assignment:**

1. Photographic paper - Do not open in anything but safelight conditions.
2. Objects that you think will make interesting designs when placed on the photographic paper surface during exposure. Objects that transmit some light may render a shade of gray, whereas, those that are totally opaque (holding back light) render a white beneath them. Areas of the paper that have nothing on the surface will be rendered black.

### **Procedure**

1. Under safelight conditions, carefully cut your paper so that the width is 5 inches and length is 7 or 8 inches. Use this size of paper for the project.
3. With an empty negative carrier in the enlarger, adjust the enlarger magnification so that an in-focus rectangle of light covers the entire easel area. Then shut the enlarger light off and carefully place your unexposed photo paper with the emulsion up, in the easel. Make sure the paper is evenly positioned in the easel (giving you equal size borders all the way around the paper); then arrange your objects on the surface to make a pleasing composition. You can then expose the paper using the second f/stop in from the wide-open position. Set the timer for 10 seconds. Now expose the paper and process it.
4. Process your print through the trays, using the tongs. Make sure you always dry off your hands before returning to the printing area. Continue through the trays moving from the process as demonstrated.
5. When your print is finished washing. Use one of the smaller trays and carry it out to the drying area and dry your print using one of the hair dryers or on the drying racks.
6. When you have a finished dry print with even borders and a deep black background, place it face up in the contact printer (in the corner of the print darkroom near the paper cutter) with an unexposed test sheet emulsion face down (emulsion to emulsion). Bring the top of the contact

printer down and flip the on/off switch with your other hand and hold it there for the allotted time (there is a red light that must illuminate). For a general starting point use 10 second exposures. Process your exposed print, and the result will be a reversal of the original image. Paper.

7. When you have both prints completed proceed to mount them both on one mounting board as demonstrated in class. Make sure you cut all the borders off your prints and there is no unnecessary white area on your prints.
8. When you have your two prints mounted on the same board, you are ready to turn your prints into me. Make sure you sign the front of your print and print your name on the back and date it.

When the project is completed you turn into me:

1. 2 prints, (one positive and one negative) mounted on one 11 x 14 mount board
2. Your lab slip
3. Your print signed front and back