

Riverside Community College  
Photo 8 Introduction to Photography | Winter 2024  
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**Assignment 1: Photogram**

**Due: Jan 8<sup>th</sup> 2024**

**Images to turn in:** 1 Print & 1 Scanned image

10 Points

**INTRODUCTION:** A **photogram** is a photographic image made without a camera by placing objects directly onto the surface of a light-sensitive material such as photographic paper and then exposing it to light. The usual result is a negative shadow image that shows variations in tone that depends upon the transparency of the objects used. Areas of the paper that have received no light appear white; those exposed through transparent or semi-transparent objects appear grey.

**PURPOSE:** This assignment will introduce you to the procedures to use when exposing, processing, washing and drying photographic paper. You will gain an understanding of the effect of light upon sensitized photographic materials.

**PROPS:** Bring to lab a selection of opaque and translucent objects that will cast interesting shadows. Some possibilities include feathers, glassware, lace, ferns, leaves, marbles, paperclips, barbed wire, etc. Plan ahead! Bring a collection of items that you can arrange to “tell a story.” You won’t make a good impression just by dumping out your pockets or purse.

**MATERIALS REQUIRED:** B&W photographic paper, some of these sheets will be used for test strips to test exposure time and the reaction of the paper versus the objects used, so that you may understand the development process. Personal objects used to create a photogram. Think about the level of transparency of each item.

**PROCEDURE:** The enlargers will be fitted with lenses and adjusted to illuminate an area larger than your photographic paper. You won’t need to touch any of the enlarger controls other than the exposure timer. PLEASE DO NOT MANIPULATE THE ENLARGERS OR LENSES UNTIL YOU HAVE HAD INSTRUCTION.

Make a “test strip” to determine the time required to produce a full black tone on your paper. The test strip procedure will be described clearly in lecture.

Place a piece of photographic paper on the baseboard or in the print frame and arrange multiple objects on it in a pleasing pattern.

Expose the paper according to the detailed procedure given in class. Remove the objects and process the paper according to your lab instructor’s directions. **Dev:** 2min **Stop:** 30sec **fix:** 3min **wash** 10min

**TURN IN 1-PHOTOGRAM:** in the plastic envelope – labeled in the slot with your name and assignment title – at the lecture on the due date. You will be graded on: print quality (a wide range of tonal gradations including some areas of pure white, rich black and gray mid-tones); variety and originality of materials; artistic arrangement (composition) of the objects in the finished photogram.

1 Scanned image is 8x10in @ 300ppi saved as a jpeg emailed to [photos@iearts.org](mailto:photos@iearts.org)