

A photogram is a picture created without the use of a camera. Traditionally, people would place objects on light sensitive paper and expose that scene to light (typically the sun). The areas exposed to light turn black or blue, while other areas stayed white or a tint of black/blue. The white and tinted areas were areas that had opaque and translucent objects on them.

We are going to do a similar project, but with our scanner and Photoshop. In Digital Photogram folder, I've placed several website tutorials for you to take a look at and follow.

You will need to bring in a variety of objects– 10–20 things of varying opaqueness/transparency. Try to anticipate what your images might look like while you are planning your photograms. You are going to submit a Triptych (series of three images) for your graded project. How might your image relate to each other? Will it be the same image broken into three pieces? Three images that have an object flowing through them? Or different images with similar subject matter? Write these thoughts into your notebook.

1. Scan your objects– create at least 10 different scans for your contact sheet.
 1. Do MINOR edits to create similar images, such as setting to grayscale and inverting the colors. Do not spend more than 5 minutes on each image.
2. With the Advanced Photo students, group up and pass around the printed contact sheets. Look at your peer's work and legibly initial the top three images of each contact sheet. Choose your top three, not what everyone else thinks is the best. Think about the series of three, which images go best together? Look past the color of the objects to how they are laid out on the page.
3. Go back to your computer and begin editing the top three (these may be your peer's top three, or your own choices). If everyone initialed one and you aren't sure why, go and ask one of them. On the other hand, if no one initialed one of your favorite image, go and ask why not. TALK WITH YOUR PEERS (not just your friends).
4. As you are editing, work on bringing out the details of your images. Use layer masks, dodging and burning tools, etc. The key to a really great image is the detail for this project.
5. Once your top three are edited, place them on one 'page' in Photoshop for submission– but keep your final images separate as well. We will print and display them as individual images.

Objectives:

Students will explore and plan an idea or concept in preparation for an artwork.

Students will apply traditional photography concepts in a modern setting.

Students will engage in constructive critique with peers, then reflect on, revise and refine works of art to improve one's original artistic intent.

Resources:

Use the links within to folder to get an understanding of the process.

[Harold Davis](#)

[Floris Neusüss](#)

[Dan Peyton](#)

[How to](#)

[Scanography](#)

Extension:

Some tutorials use digital cameras and lightboxes. If you have, or wish to create, a lightbox, you are welcome to explore and experiment with this.