INSTANT FILM EMULSION LIFT RECIPE

This technique floats the emulsion off the surface of a fully-developed Instant Film print positive. The thin layer of emulsion is then applied to a substrate. Folds and overlays are inherent in the process.

MATERIALS *supplied by the student*

Originals of your work in Digital format [either Transparency or Print on Paper]
FujiFilm 100c Instant Film, or Polaroid Type 669 Instant Film
Receiving Material
Archival Printmaking Paper, such as Arches 88, Rives BFK, Crane, Stonehenge
should be un-sized with a smooth surface (hot-press), 140 lb or more
Any Other Substrate such as glass, metal, wood, etc. (*optional*)
Clear Acetate or Mylar Sheet
Gloss Gel Medium (optional)
Small Foam Brush

EQUIPMENT *available in the Lab*

Daylab Processor Electric Skillet Thermometer
2 Trays Tongs Scissors Brayer Hair Dryer

THE PROCESS

EXPOSE AND PREP

tear down the paper or cut the receiver material to the appropriate size
set the Film Type to 3 for Fuji 100c, ASA 100, or 2 for Polaroid 669, ASA 80
expose the film in the Daylab processor
+ will darken the print, – will lighten it
pull the film through the rollers, smoothly and evenly
wait 90 seconds for film to fully process
peel away the negative from the positive
set aside the negative (but save for another process)
set and dry the Print Positive fully
use a hair dryer for 1-2 minutes (it can also be left overnight to air dry)
trim to the size of the picture, eliminating all white borders

COOK AND LIFT

fill the electric skillet with water
heat to 160° F
immerse the print face up into the hot water
use the tongs on the edges to make sure it stays immersed
keep in hot water until white bubbles start to appear on the surface
the Emulsion should start to lift off on its own in about 3 ~ 5 minutes
place a sheet of clear acetate in a tray of cold water
transfer the print with tongs into the tray of cold water
lightly push the emulsion with your fingers until it lifts off the backing
maneuver the emulsion onto the acetate sheet
try to flatten out the wrinkles
although some feel the wrinkles are the best part!
remove the acetate with the Emulsion Lift from the tray of water

INSTANT FILM EMULSION LIFT RECIPE, cont'd.

TRANSFER AND GLUE

remove the backing material from the water
pick up the adhesive from the backing material
use a small foam brush
Gloss Gel Medium or Mod Podge can also be used
apply the adhesive to the receiver material
be careful to apply only in the image area
slide the Emulsion Lift onto the adhesive-coated receiver
brayer lightly over the emulsion from the middle outwards
clean any glue off the brayer immediately!
remove any excess glue from beyond the image area
use a paper towel

allow to air dry (overnight)

an additional layer of Gloss Gel Medium or Mod Podge can be applied over the finished piece (*optional*)

CHEMICAL SAFETY

Always be careful when developing and handling Instant Film materials. When the Instant Film prints are pulled apart, the developing chemicals are exposed. These chemicals are toxic and somewhat caustic. Keep away from skin and eyes.

AESTHETIC CONSIDERATIONS

There is a certain amount of translucency with these lifts. This can be used to make interesting multiple image pieces and overlays.

The ability to adhere lifts to any surface make the possibility of making photographic objects. Just do not let the receiver overpower the image. Remember – '*form supports content*'.

Thanks to Amy Stevens for the initial compilation of this document, and to Steve at Daylab for helping to update it for FujiFilm.