PAPER PROCESSING FOR ARTS 245 & 246

Note: The following process is for RC (Resin Coated) papers only. Please see the instructor if you intend to use fiber based papers.

HOUSEKEEPING

Using a black and white darkroom is a lot like sharing an apartment. If you don’t help keep it clean and do your part, others have to make up for it. With that consideration, be sure to do the following:

1. Be courteous. Others might not share your tastes in music, so keep it down or use headphones.
2. Keep it clean. If you spill, wipe it up with towels or get a mop.
3. Don’t walk away. If you’re the last one in, be sure the washers and safe lights are turned off.
4. Replace the chemistry if it’s your turn. Using weak chemistry will affect the quality of your work. It doesn’t take much time, and it makes all the difference in terms of image brightness, contrast, and longevity.
5. Don’t eat or drink anything while working in the darkroom. This is important – absolutely no food or beverages.

PRINT EXPOSURE

1. Select the negative you wish to print by viewing your contact sheet. Be sure the negative is clean and free of dust particles.
2. Load the negative into the negative carrier. Be sure the shiny side is up.
3. Place the carrier back into the enlarger.
4. Set the timer to focus.
5. Raise the enlarger up or down to crop the image as you wish on the easel.
6. Focus the image using the grain focusing tool.
7. Set the timer for “time”, and place a sheet of paper in the easel.
8. Prepare a test strip or make the exposure by setting the timer and exposing the print.

PRINT PROCESSING

1. Once exposed, remove the print from the easel. Turn the emulsion side of the print away from the safelights whenever possible.
2. Check to be sure the developer chart has room for one more print, then slip the print into the tray face up. Note the time, and then flip the print over using the tongs. Agitate by rocking the tray continuously for 1-1/2 minutes.
3. Once complete, lift the print using the tongs and allow it to drip into the tray for a few moments.
4. Slip the print into the Stop Bath, and agitate for 30 seconds.
5. Remove the print from the Stop Bath and allow it to drip as before, then slip it into the fixer tray.
6. Agitate the print for no less that 2 minutes and no more than 4 minutes.
7. Remove the print from the fixer tray with the tongs, allow it to drip as before, then slip it into the washer. Agitate the print occasionally so that it doesn't stick to other prints washing at the same time. Wash the print for no more than 5 minutes.

NOTE: THE TOTAL WET TIME FOR A PRINT SHOULD NOT EXCEED 10 MINUTES!!!

8. Once washing is complete, squeegee the print on the plastic bed, then insert it into the dryer. While drying, mark the processing chart for the print you have made. If your print has pushed the developer or fixer over the top, prepare a new tray using the instructions for print chemicals.
9. Once dry, take the print from the darkroom for viewing.

NOTE: THE GARBAGE CAN IS THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S BEST FRIEND. IF THE PRINT STINKS, THROW IT OUT. DON'T LET IT LAY AROUND WHERE OTHERS CAN SEE IT.