

The Art of Photography

Richard White

PHOTOGRAPHIC WORKSHOPS
CALENDAR

ON LINE GALLERY

PHOTOGRAPHY ARTICLES

HIGH COUNTRY

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Ripples, Death Valley, California 2003

Hello once again. I thought you may be interested in something I have been messing around with over the last few weeks. As most of you know the yellow box company, Kodak, changed its coating facility for, I believe, all films, well certainly all black and white films. This process was completed last year with TRI-X film one of the last if not the last.

We were told that processing times would change and “here is a guide, but be sure to do your own tests”. Many of you will know the two black and white films I have been using for years are T-MAX 100, (sometimes 400) in 120 size and TRI-X for sheet film.

I had noticed that over the past year my T-MAX negs and my TRI-X negatives especially were becoming more contrasty. They had a look that suggested I was processing the film too long. My suspicions were that the silver content had been reduced and this was backed up by other photographers that I know so I

decided to reduce my development time to compensate. I found that for the old emulsion I had to reduce my time by about 20%. Quite a lot when you think that “they” had “done nothing”.

The new emulsion was even different again. With T-MAX 100 I took another couple of minutes off the time and now am quite happy with my processing times. I had been reading over the last few months that you needed to do this and that, but no two articles suggested the same thing. That seemed strange to me. I had always intended to do my own tests, but for no one to agree on a general principal suggests that everyone is different and we should do our own tests for our film speed and development time. This is imperative and can play such a huge part in our image making.

My process time for the new 100 T-MAX 120 film is now 9 minutes in D 76 1:1. The new Tri-X 120 film is 10 minutes in D 76 1:1 (I obtained some of that emulsion as well) and 4 x 5” sheet film processed in a Jobo machine is 7 min 15 sec also in D 76 1:1. 4 x 5” sheet film in HC 110 at 1:11 is about 6 minutes. This is getting a little low if I want to do N minus development. I will do more tests on this and let you know if I have success. I am assuming now that, after so many years using HC 110, I will have to swap to D 76 for all my films, which in some ways will not be a bad thing.

Just to make matters interesting I was going to test some of the new Fuji Acros ISO 100 ready load film and 120 film as well, courtesy of the folk at Hanimex, now Fuji Film - (name change). Fuji Acros had an EI of between 80 and 100. I chose to go for 80 just to give myself a little more shadow detail. I worked out that development time in D 76 was 7 1/4 minutes. I made a few real type photographs around my place and processed more film. The negs looked good so now all I have to do is find some interesting light or subject matter.

Photographic Trade Show – Darling Harbour, Sydney

At the recent Photographic trade show and AIPP national Judging in Sydney last month it was difficult to find anything that related to traditional photography. It was all things digital. Hardware, software, scanners, printers, computers and cameras. Don't downgrade, but upgrade. Get the latest cause it's the greatest, stay ahead of the pack, don't run with them and how about this beauty, Sheep flock together, eagles fly out on their own. I felt a little like an eagle because I have chosen to stay with the analogue system, mainly because it suits what I do. I just couldn't produce the prints I make any other way. My choice. I'm happy.

I wonder if in a few years we will do a full circle or partial one. Some industries already are returning to the old methods. It'll be interesting to keep an eye on it.

Once again I entered 4 prints into the National judging. It is always a hard thing to be judged by your peers. They mark harder than most others so when you do well you feel as if you have achieved a lot more. This year I received 4 Silver Awards.

Web Site

Thanks for all those people who have emailed me with your thoughts about my web site www.richardwhite.com.au The challenge now is to maintain it.

EMAIL DARKROOM EDITIONS #2

100% guaranteed

The second offering in the Email Darkroom editions is again the photograph I have presented at the head of this newsletter. It is a photograph I took whilst I was in the USA last year courtesy of an Arts Council Grant provided by the Victorian Government.

The darkroom editions are designed to give you the opportunity to purchase one of my photographs at a highly reduced rate. This will apply only to receivers of this electronic mail. **This offer lasts till June 30, 2004.**

Photographs are offered in sizes that I feel are appropriate to the image. This will differ from image to image as some shots, in my opinion, only deserve, or work better in a particular size.

The above image will be offered in 8 x 10" and 11 x 14". Actually the height of the image will vary as it is printed more as a panorama. The width will be 10" and 14" respectively. The image will be printed on Polymax Fine Art Fibre Base double weight paper, selenium toned and processed to archival standards.

The print is mounted and over matted on museum board ready for framing.

Details relating to the image and print number will appear on the back of the mounted photograph.

That's it for this time. I'll leave you with this pearl of wisdom!

When your out photographing 'tomorrow', plan to be spontaneous!

Thanks and cheers till next time,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the name, there is a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line that serves as a decorative underline.