

SABATTIER

A SPECIAL EFFECT TECHNIQUE IN PHOTOGRAPHY

Sabattier is a special effect technique used in photography. The sabattier effect creates a fascinating and unusual image. This effect is created by a technique in which a print is exposed to light during processing.

A sabattier print has a very unusual appearance and is created by exposing the print to light (fogging) during development. This effect gives a print both negative and positive qualities and adds halo-like Mackie lines between adjacent highlight and shadow areas. Mackie lines are border regions that remain light when by-products from the first development retard further development between the light and dark areas of the image. These lines add to the unusual look of the sabattier image.

Another aspect of the sabattier image which adds to its unusualness is the considerable loss of contrast created by this technique. This is caused by the fact that the dark areas of the print are not much affected when the exposure to light takes place. The bright areas, however, are affected. They turn grey but still remain somewhat lighter than the shadows.

A sabattier print can be created in two different ways. The simplest way, but the most difficult to control, is simply to turn on a light briefly while the print is in the developer. With this method of achieving the sabattier technique, it is best to choose an image which has strong linear elements. Expose the print on a harder grade of paper than would normally be used. Give the paper half its normal development time, then switch on the white light for a second or so. Ensure that it evenly illuminates the developer dish. Now complete the normal development without agitation. Fix and wash normally.

The second method is more complicated but gives greater control over the outcome.

1. Gather necessary materials. These include "a negative of normal to high contrast", normal print processing chemicals, and high-contrast paper.
2. Place the negative in the enlarger and focus. Expose a test print with a slightly lighter-than-normal series of test exposures.
3. Develop the print for the standard time in a normal developer.
4. Wash the print in water for 30 seconds in order to remove the surface developer. Do not use an acid stop bath. With a squeegee or soft paper towels, remove the excess water from the front and back of the print. Handle the wet print gently in order not to scratch its fragile surface.
5. The next step is to remove the negative from the enlarger. Stop down the aperture about two stops. Now the test strips must be re-exposed at right angles to the first exposures.
6. Develop the print for the standard time in a normal developer.

7. Now the print should be treated with stop bath and fixer. Wash and dry the print as usual.
8. Now it is time to examine the test print and decide which square gives the most desired effect. Make a print under the same conditions (exposure times, apertures, and development times).

One can create a well-controlled sabattier print by following this procedure.

Both of these methods can be utilized in the creation of the sabattier effect. They both are ways to produce the techniques of exposing the developing image to light. This technique creates the unusual and compelling images of a sabattier print. This is a truly fascinating special effect technique in photography with the capacity to turn a mundane photograph into a surreal artistic statement.

Sources Used to Compile This Tutorial :

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