

IMPOSSIBLE FILM - PX 100

MANIPULATION TECHNIQUES by Beppe Bolchi

These are the very first impressions after the very first tests as Creative Techniques with this new type of film require a complete different approach.

Obviously, anyone used to manipulate Polaroid film, either the old (and fantastic) SX-70 or the newest 600/Image/Spectra emulsions, will try the same, but results will not be really satisfactory as the pressure through the transparent is not very effective and cannot reach the black layer. In fact a lower pressure just marks the emulsion very lightly, whereas a strong pressure reaches a white layer.

On the other hand, emulsion is very soft and easy to manipulate if the transparent is lifted from the background, however not right away after being developed, but doing it after a while, 1 hour and more (I've tried even after 24 hours!). In this case emulsion is still wet (be careful won't stay stick to the transparent) and it's possible to touch it softly and gently (picture 115/8). Higher pressure or a knife will reach the white layer underneath for marking the emulsion (picture 61/2). The emulsion will dry, then, in a couple of hours allowing also to be painted with soft pens or watercolors.

This means it's not a must to manipulate this film right away on the field, but you can do it afterwards, when back home or being quietly inside, with all the time and tools and especially no limitations to creativity and inspirations.

I found this very interesting and peculiar, but you have to be very careful manipulating the real emulsion surface, that is delicate and soft, but, when dry, looks like an oil painting. Fantastic!

A suggestion to lift the transparent: with a pair of scissors cut the bottom corners, then with a sharp cutter between the film sandwich go around the all frame. Finally, gently lift the upper layer being careful the emulsion will stay stuck to the background and not to the transparent.

More will follow...