

Photograms

PHOTOGRAPHS WITHOUT NEGATIVES



A Photogram does not require a camera or a negative. It is made by placing objects directly on the photo paper and exposing it in the darkroom. Your choice of objects and their arrangement create unique one of a kind prints.

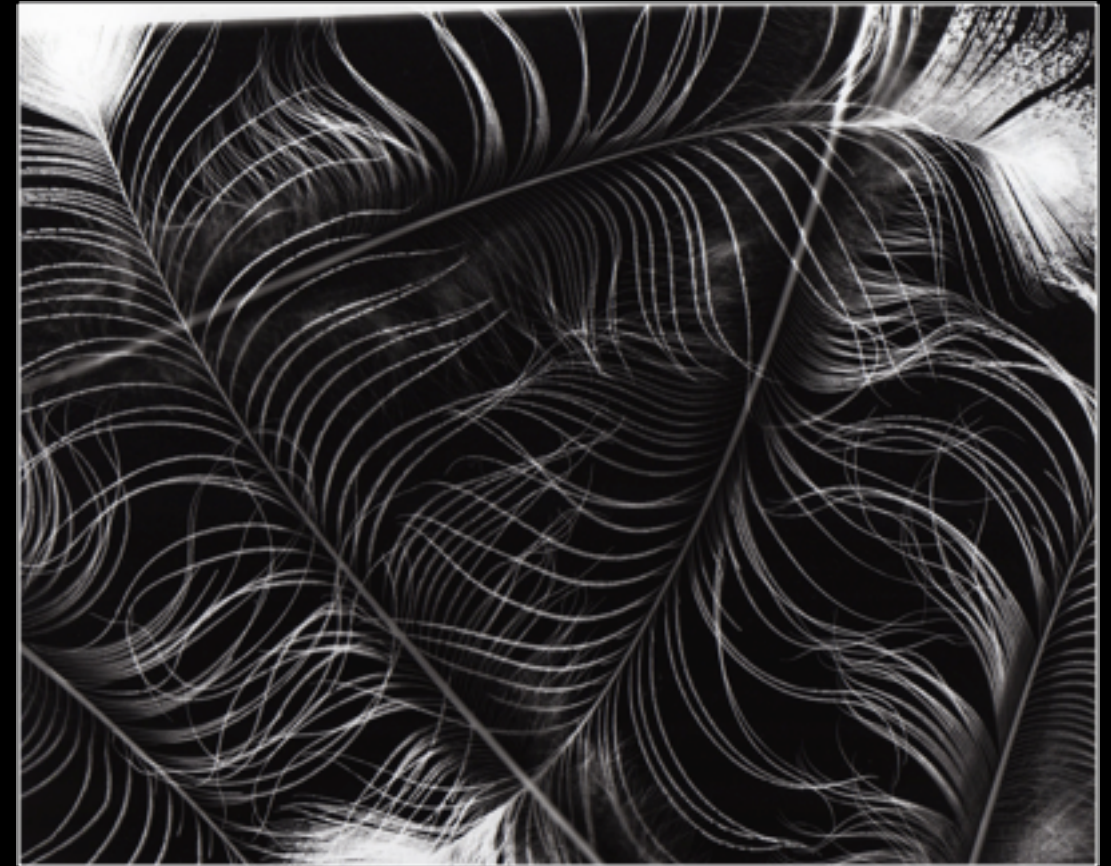
Hannah L. Shanks, 2011

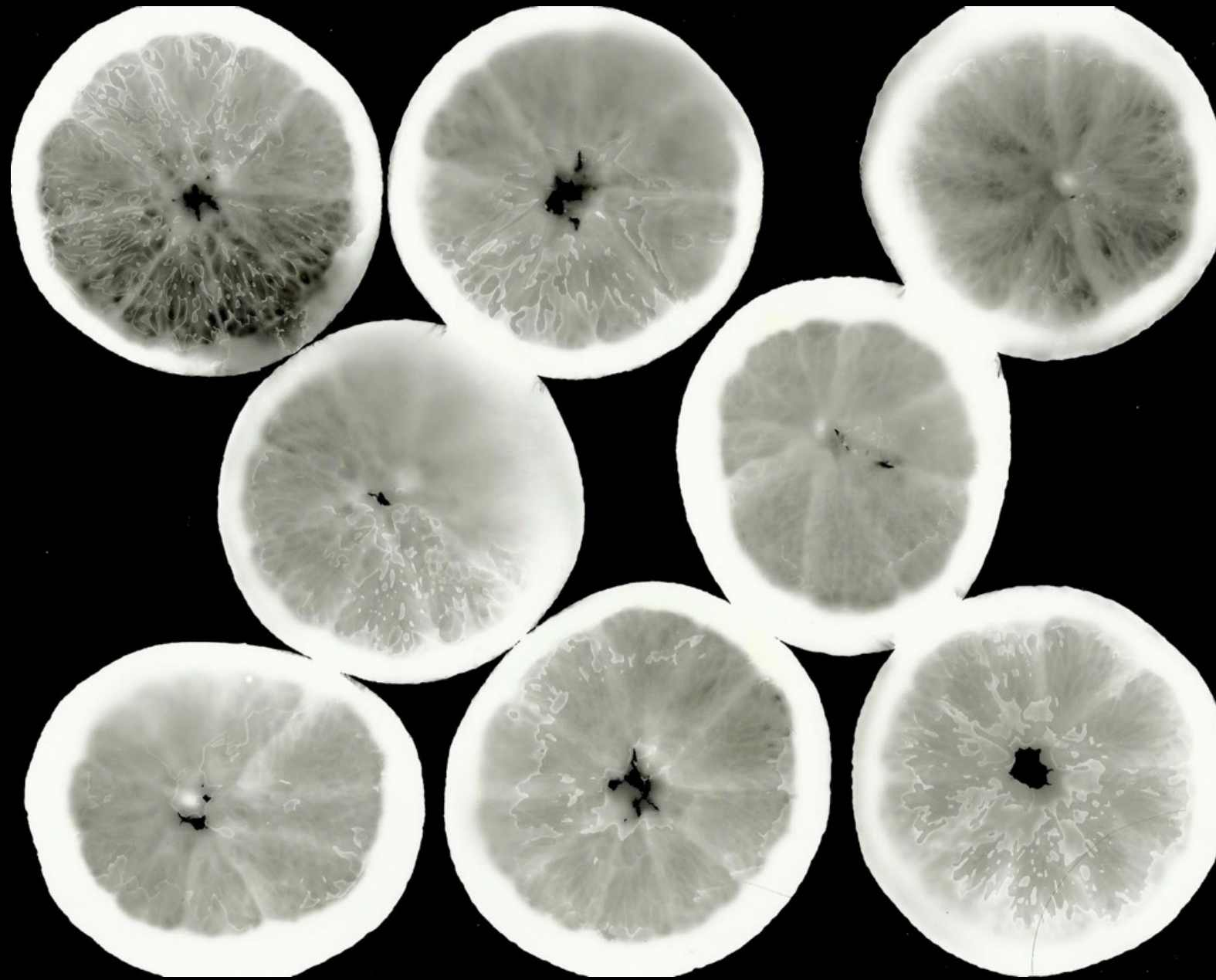


The Kiss, Man Ray 1922

Hints:

1. Your choice and arrangement of objects creates meaning.
2. The object's shadow is white; the exposed paper is black.
3. Objects that are opaque (do not let light through) will make hard "shadows." Objects that are transparent or semi-transparent will let light through (creating an x-ray effect).
4. More opaque objects may require more exposure to get light through (just like a "dense" negative).
5. Objects that lay flat on the paper create hard edges; 3-dimensional objects create blurred edges.
6. Moving objects during parts of the exposure can create overlapping and blended elements.
7. Test strips will help determine exposure and time in developer (at least a minute, but you can go up to three minutes). Make sure you are getting minimum black.

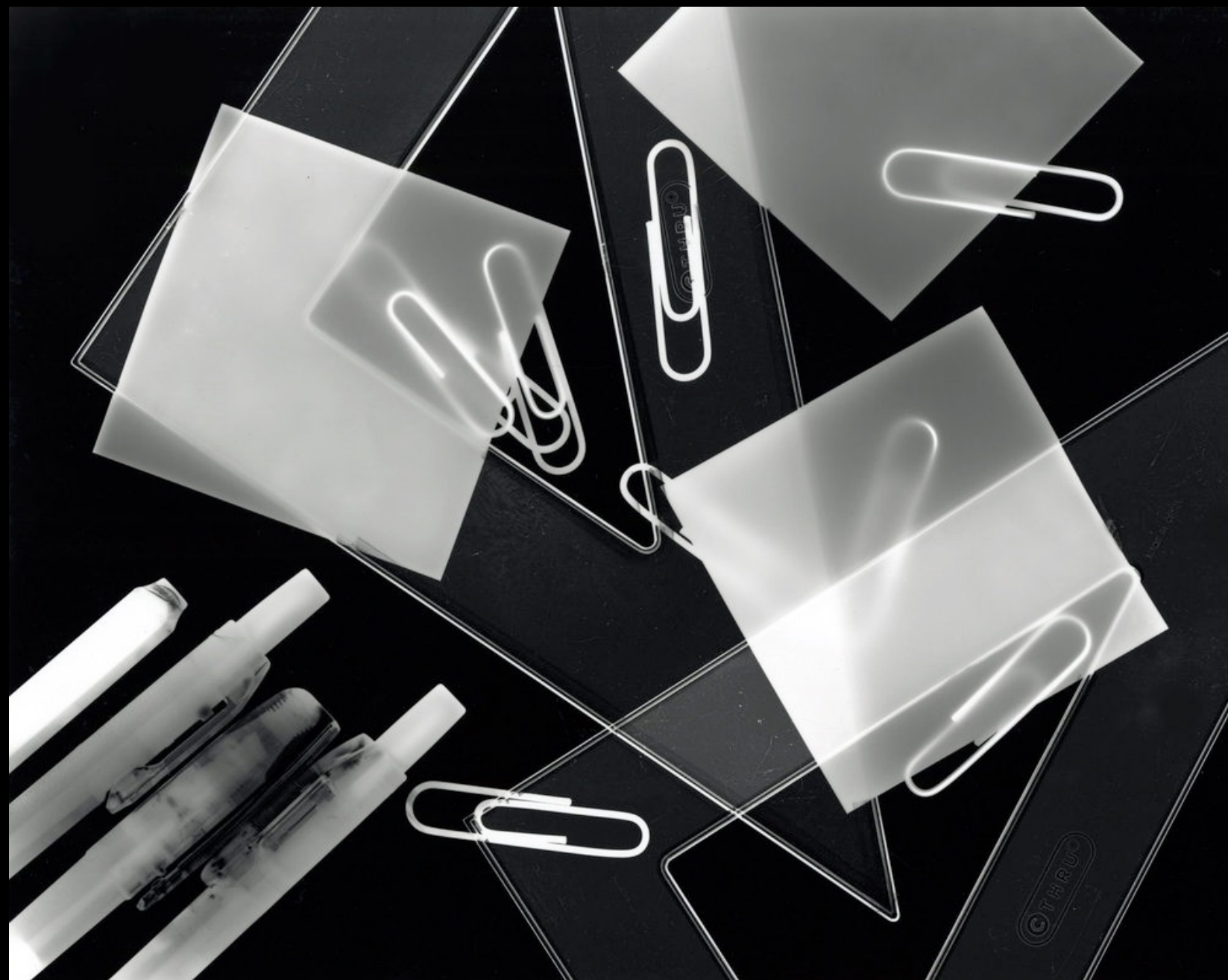




**Objects with
transparency and
unique shapes
work well.
Arrange objects
deliberately or
randomly.**



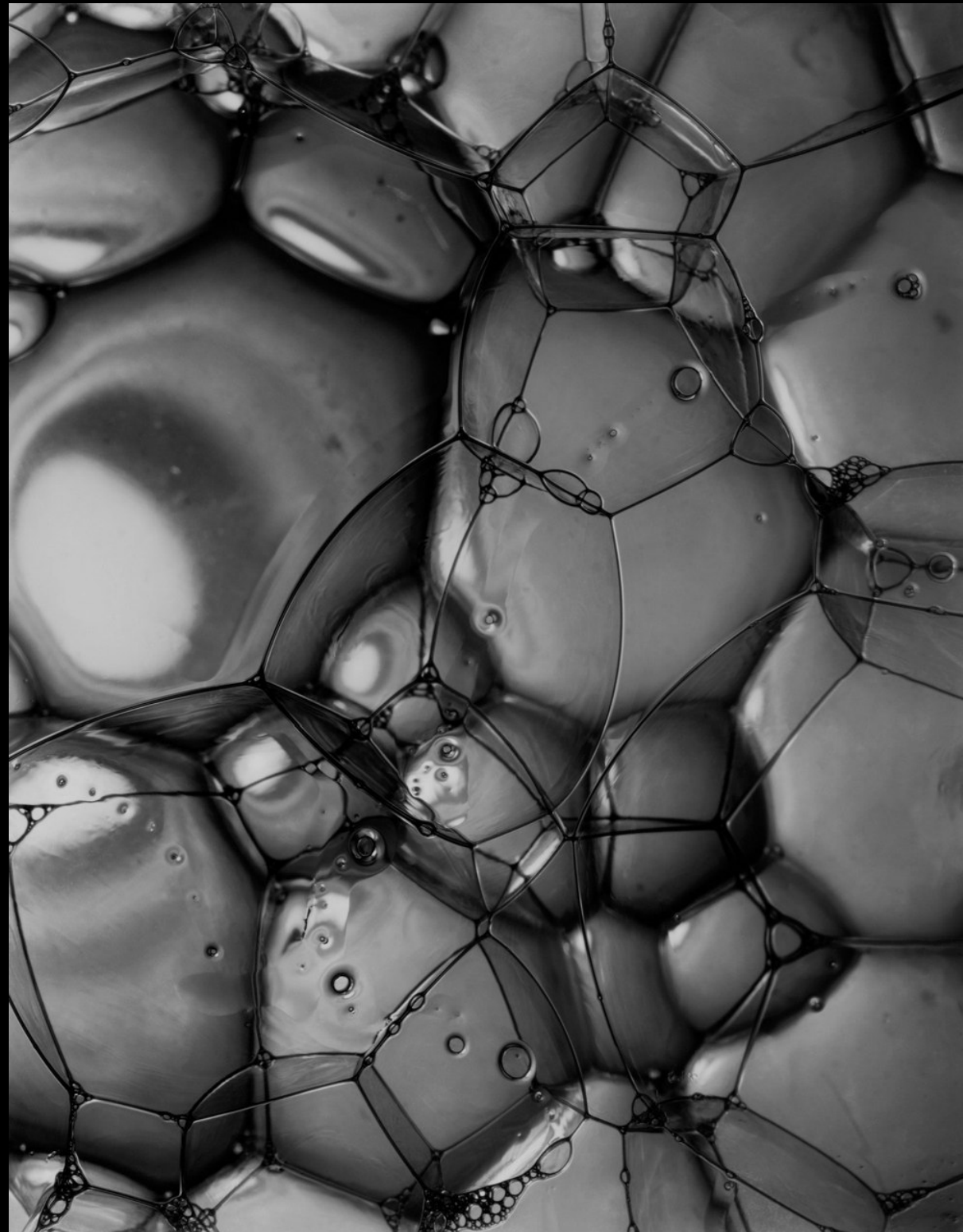
Try layering or overlapping objects for effect.



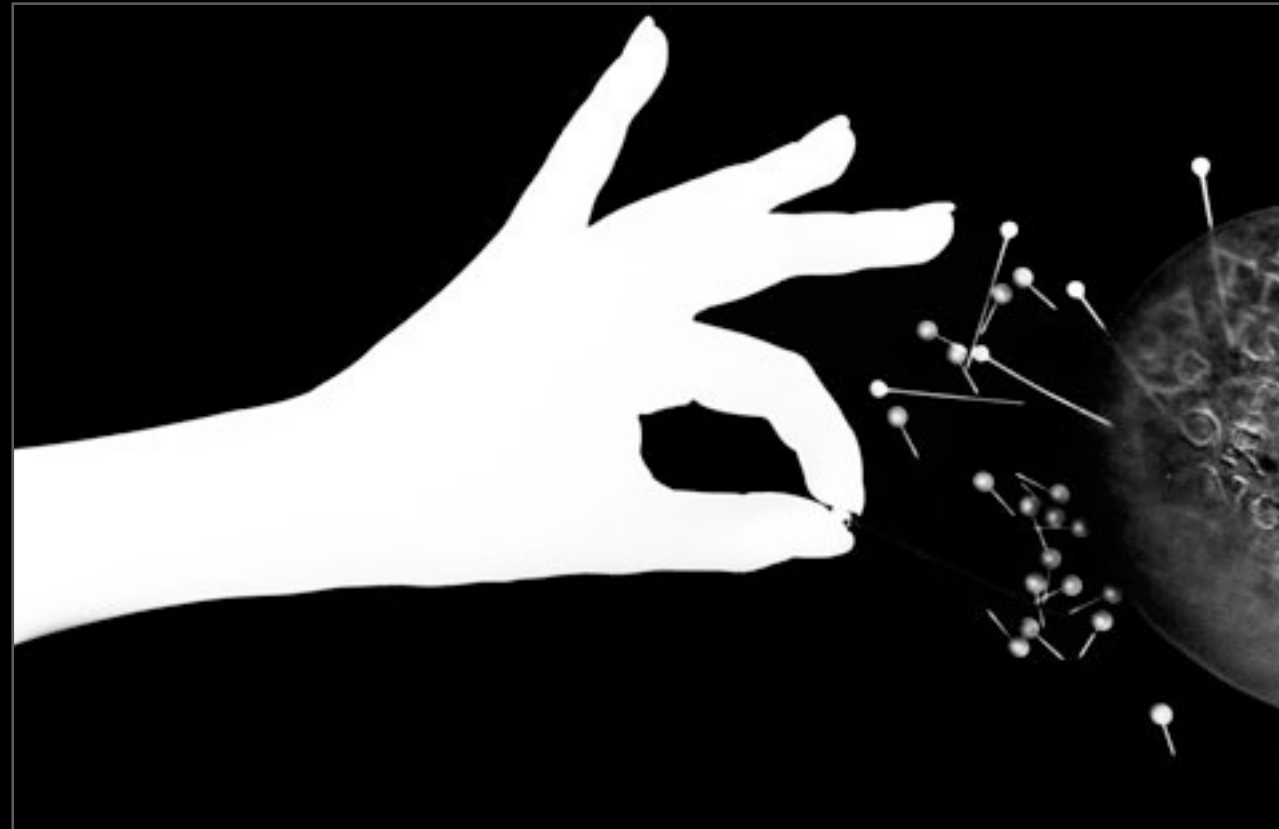


Move objects at different stages of exposure to create the illusion of movement or animation.

Look for intricate patterns in natural things. A photogram can record shapes and textures, just like an X-ray.

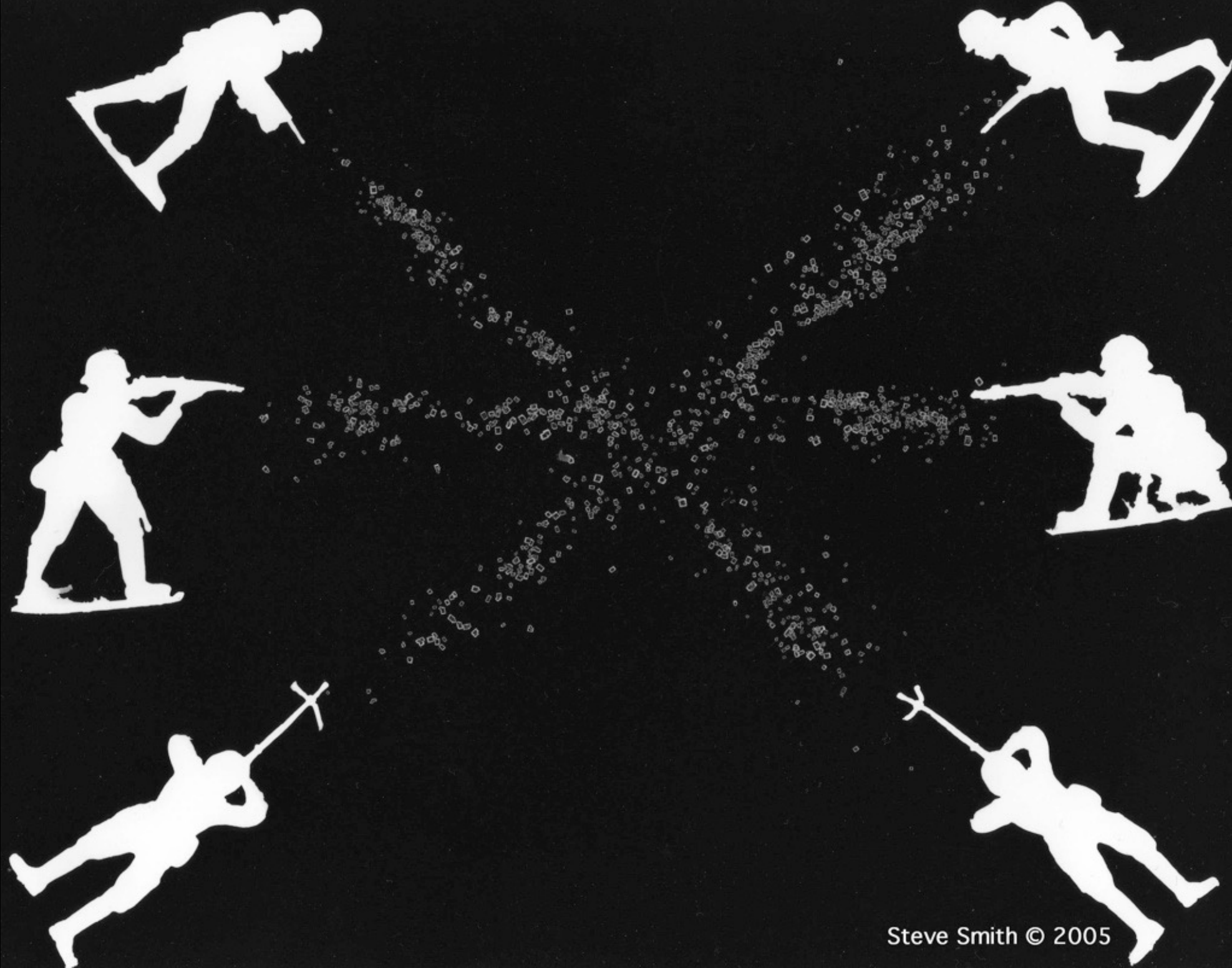


***Soap Bubbles*, Berenice Abbott, 1945**



**You can show an action and tell a story
in your photogram.**

Steve Smith © 2005

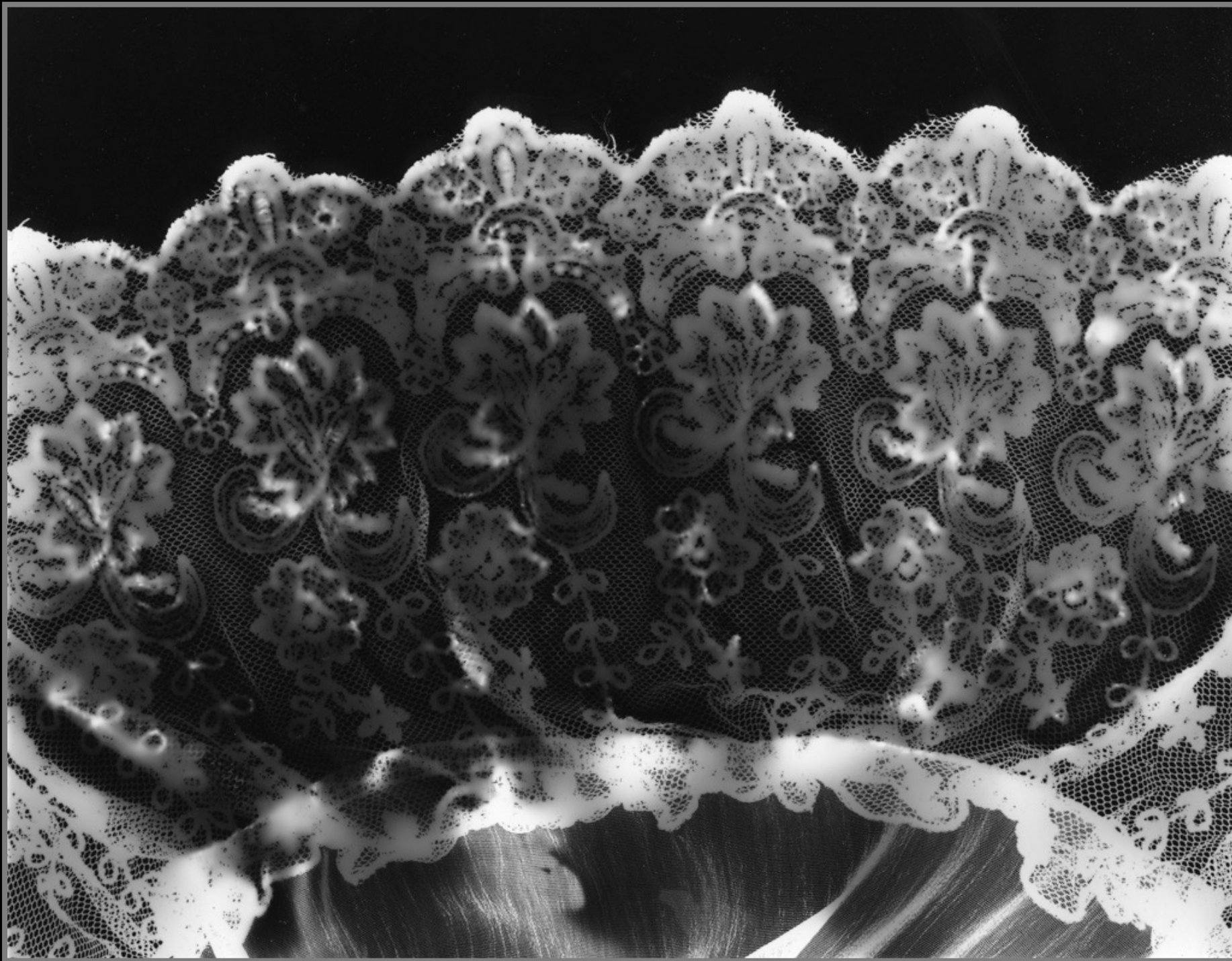


Steve Smith © 2005

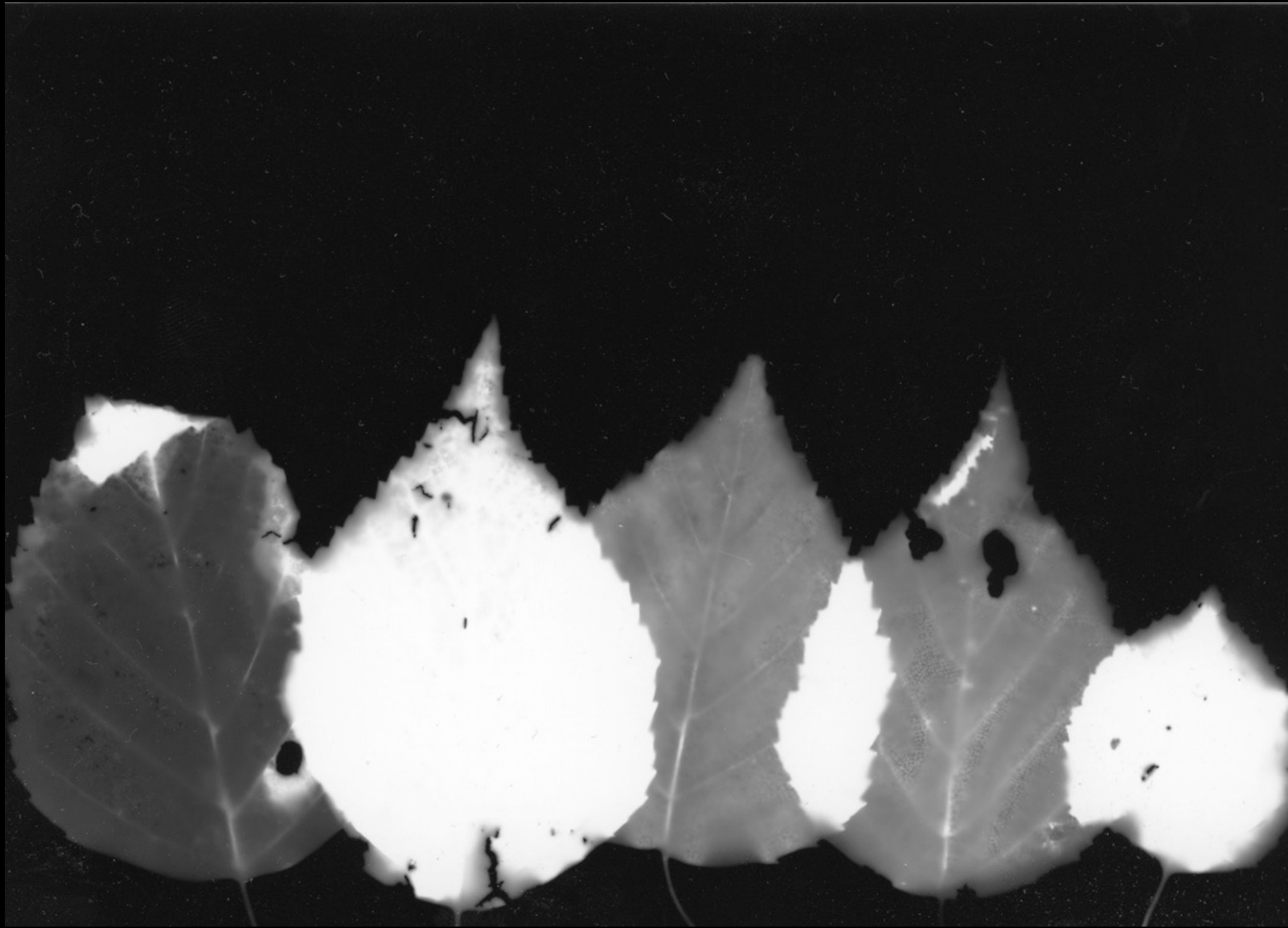
CCHS Student Examples
Fall 2012



Water by Abby Cottrill, 2012



Lace by Abbey Ojemann, 2012



Leaves by Alana Gushue, 2012



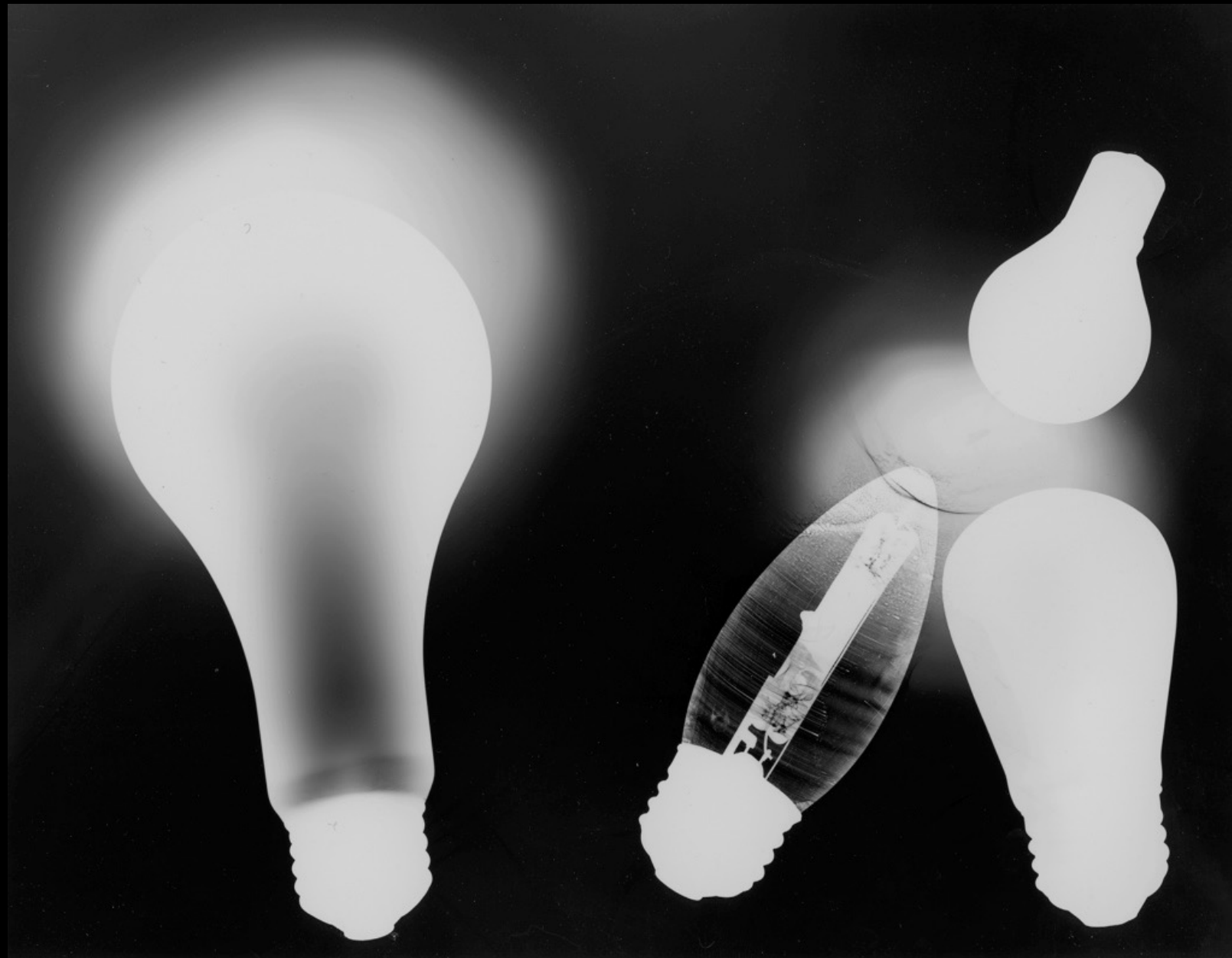
Falling Feathers by Emma Reichheld, 2012



Vinyl by Julian Hochmuth, 2012



Puzzle by Luke Cogliano, 2012



Lightbulbs by Natalie Hobson, 2012



Untitled, Heinz Hajek-Halke, 1950

Assignment:

You must create TWO photograms.

For your first, focus on *design*:

- ★ transparency
- ★ reflection
- ★ arrangement
- ★ layering

...and so on.

Choose the most *interesting objects or substances* you can find. Experiment!

For your second photogram, focus on *creating meaning*:

- * stage a scene
- * use an object or objects meaningful to you
- * say something about an issue-- something you want to see in the world or something that bothers you