

Take Your Photography Further!

By Jean Timmermeister, FPSA, ACAPA

Mark Twain: *"Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it's time to pause and reflect."*

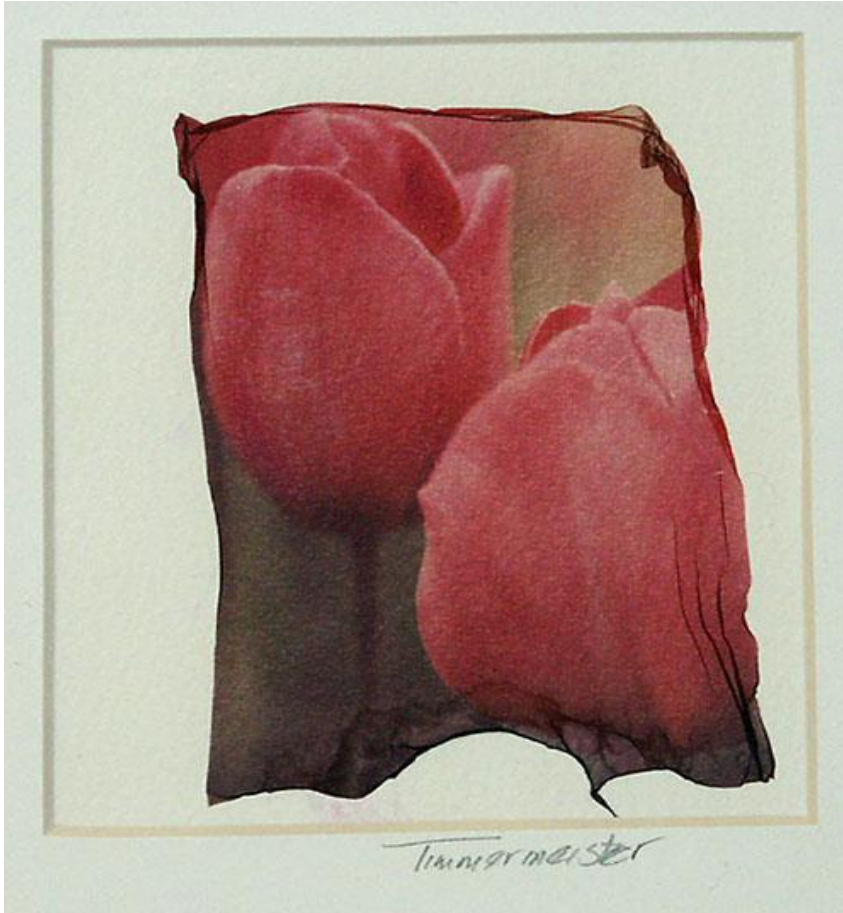
It goes without saying that we can enjoy our photography ourselves by simply selecting a favorite shot, get an appropriate mat for it and put it in a frame and proudly display it in our home. Better yet, we might share some of our images with friends and family by getting enlargements made and giving them away. The ultimate would then be to 'show' our work and OPCC has been fortunate to display prints of our members annually (except 2003) at the Museum and Arts Center (MAC) here in Sequim. Soon MAC will have completed the interior renovation of the new museum on Cedar Street and members will again be able to show 2-4 prints at that group showing.

For me, I like to take my slide images further in *another* way. I especially like the Polaroid Image Transfers and the Emulsion Transfers made from my slides to allow a more artistic version of the original. The quick story is this: with Polaroid 669 film loaded into a DayLab printer, I insert a color slide into the carrier, adjust to accommodate the change in proportion of 35mm to Pola film, focus and then make a small print. I might adjust the color of the print and will know that there is usually a color shift anyhow.

I prefer Emulsion Transfers (sometimes called 'Emulsion Lifts') and I must select a slide which can allow loss of part of the image (on the long side) and which is colorful and without large amounts of black or other dark color. Reds and oranges in the original work well. The original image must be a good one, there is no improvement to the original by copying it onto Polaroid film.

Allowing the print to dry overnight, I then cut a piece of Contact paper to cover the back of the print, get out my old electric wok which I picked up Goodwill for a dollar or two, fill the wok with water, get the candy thermometer ready and bring the water to 150-160 degrees. Lay out two photo trays on the table or counter with room temperature water in each. Place a sheet of clear mylar in one. I have ready sheets of 140# cold press artist's watercolor paper cut slightly larger than the size of the Pola print.

Slipping the print into the water (one print at a time) for up to 5 minutes, I watch carefully for the emulsion to start to slip off the backing. A piece of watercolor paper goes into a water bath. When the print is clearly loosening, I take wooden tongs and pull the image out of the hot water and into the tray which has the Mylar sheet. I set the soaked watercolor paper on a paper towel to absorb excess water. Under water, with both hands, I carefully work the emulsion off the backing with my fingers and thumbs and onto the Mylar (still under water) , varying the image and edges into interesting shapes, looks, etc. Slowly taking it out on the Mylar, I then flop it onto the receiving watercolor paper and allow it to shape as I want. Allow it to dry, possibly color it with colored pencil or water color. Cut a mat, frame it up!



Enjoy! You have taken your photography further. I have shown my Emulsion Transfers at *Museum and Arts Center, Sequim*; *Port Angeles Fine Arts Center* and presently am showing at *Foto!Gallery* in Tacoma and am scheduled for two more showings in 2004.