Solarization or the Sabattier Effect

Solarization is the process of re-exposing photographic paper during the development process. The result is an eerie silver image which contains light lines between the shadows and the highlighted areas.

Areas that have been exposed the least are affected the most during the re-exposure of the print. The darker areas or shadows on the prints show little change during the solarization process.

The Sabattier effect is a fairly easy process to achieve and can be done in a few easy steps.

## The Process of Solarization

To begin the process, take a negative that you know the proper develop time for, expose a fresh piece of photo paper with a decrease of 20% time and begin to develop your paper normally. When the image begins to appear, remove the print from the developer quickly and place it into a tray of water for about ten seconds. This will slow the development process.

The next step is to re-expose the paper to light. This exposure should last only about two seconds. The light source should be at a low aperture and should be three to four feet away from the print.

The final step is to put the paper back into the developer for the remaining development time. Complete the process of development using your stop bath, fixer and final wash.

In order to achieve the desired effects you may need to experiment with different exposure times. Two seconds is a good starting point, but you may need to vary the tone up or down depending on the print and the type of paper used.

Tips for gaining maximum results:

* Use two enlargers if possible. One for printing and one for re-exposure.
* Use tongs and trays to keep your hands and surrounding areas dry.
* Since re-exposure effects the highlights, use a print with a lot of light areas to achieve the most dramatic results.
* Experiment!!!

   