

# Kansas City Art Institute

## Continuing and Professional Studies Safety Manual

### Darkroom Photography – Main Campus – East Building

#### Personal Protective Equipment

- Closed toe shoes are required for the darkroom.
- Wearing a waterproof apron is recommended.

#### Using Darkroom Chemicals

- Most black and white darkroom chemicals are non-toxic to slightly toxic, but have been known to cause bronchitis, sinusitis, increased allergic sensitivity, and skin rashes. Avoid ingestion, inhalation and skin contact.
- Asthmatics and other sensitive individuals may wish to wear respirators.
- Use tongs when handling photos in the chemical baths. Gloves can also be worn.
- Label all containers clearly, and keep closed or covered when not in use to prevent the release of gases.
- All spent chemicals should be placed into an appropriate waste container, not rinsed down the drain.
- Clean up any chemical spills immediately. Flood the area with cold water and wipe up with towels, cleaning thoroughly. When chemistry dries it turns to powder, allowing it to contaminate the air.

#### Alternative Processes

- Various alternative processes have their own hazards. Ask your instructor if you are unsure of the proper level of protection.

#### Mixing Darkroom Chemicals

- Technicians or instructors should mix chemicals whenever possible
- Safety goggles, long gloves and waterproof apron should be worn while mixing liquid chemical to prevent contamination and skin contact.
- For mixing chemicals from powder, a respirator is additionally required.
- Always measure water first, then add acid, to prevent splashing