Fun Photography Effects

From the FAM permanent collection

Mary Kocol (American, b. 1962), *Garden Roses*, 2008, archival inkjet photograph.
Jamie Poppel Collection Fund, 2013.23

About the Artist

Mary Kocol creates special effects in her photographs by putting flowers in a pan of water and freezing them. Once the water has turned to ice, she takes out the block of ice, holds it up to the sky, and takes a close-up picture of it.

Mary Kocol's photographs were part of the *Still Life Lives!* exhibition at FAM in 2013. To learn more about Mary Kocol and her photography, visit her website marykocol.com.

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Looking for Inspiration

- Notice how the ice affected the appearance of the flowers.
- Besides ice, what other things could you use to alter the appearance of your photograph? What other things could your camera look through to see the subject?

Materials Camera or cell phone; clear or colored (but see-through) plastic bags; plastic wrap; wax paper; colored glass jars; permanent markers.

Optional project: Several colored glass or plastic bottles and jars, white paper, camera or cell phone.

Instructions Experiment with photography using Mary Kocol's method and other techniques

- Experiment with putting different transparent or translucent materials in front of your camera before you take a picture of something. Draw with markers on plastic bags or wrap and crumple it, poke holes in wax paper, or shoot through a colored glass jar. Try holding the materials closer and farther away from the camera.
- Or try Mary Kocol's technique of putting your subject in ice! (It helps to have someone else hold it while you take the photo.)

Optional Project:
- Collect 5-7 colored glass or plastic bottles and jars.
- Group them together where the sun can shine through them onto a piece of white paper on the floor or a white wall.
- Place something you want to photograph on the shadows to see the effect. Experiment with moving the bottles around, and take close-up photographs.