

The Story of Photo Emulsion

Discover the history and concept behind the medium

SCHOOL OF
VISUAL
PHILOSOPHY
ONLINE
ATELIER



Photo Emulsion for Serigraphy



What we will cover...

History

What it is

Applications

How to tell YOUR story
through screen printing

.

Origin Story

From Photography

Photo Emulsion has its roots in photography, which was invented in the mid 1800's by **Joseph Nicéphore Niépce**, a French inventor who created what he called "Heliotypes". The word "Photography" comes from "photo" meaning "light" and "graph" meaning "to draw or render with line" in Greek.

Other early pioneers of photography include **Henry Fox Talbot** and **Louis Daguerre**.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Photography>



Early Beginnings

Early patents and experiments

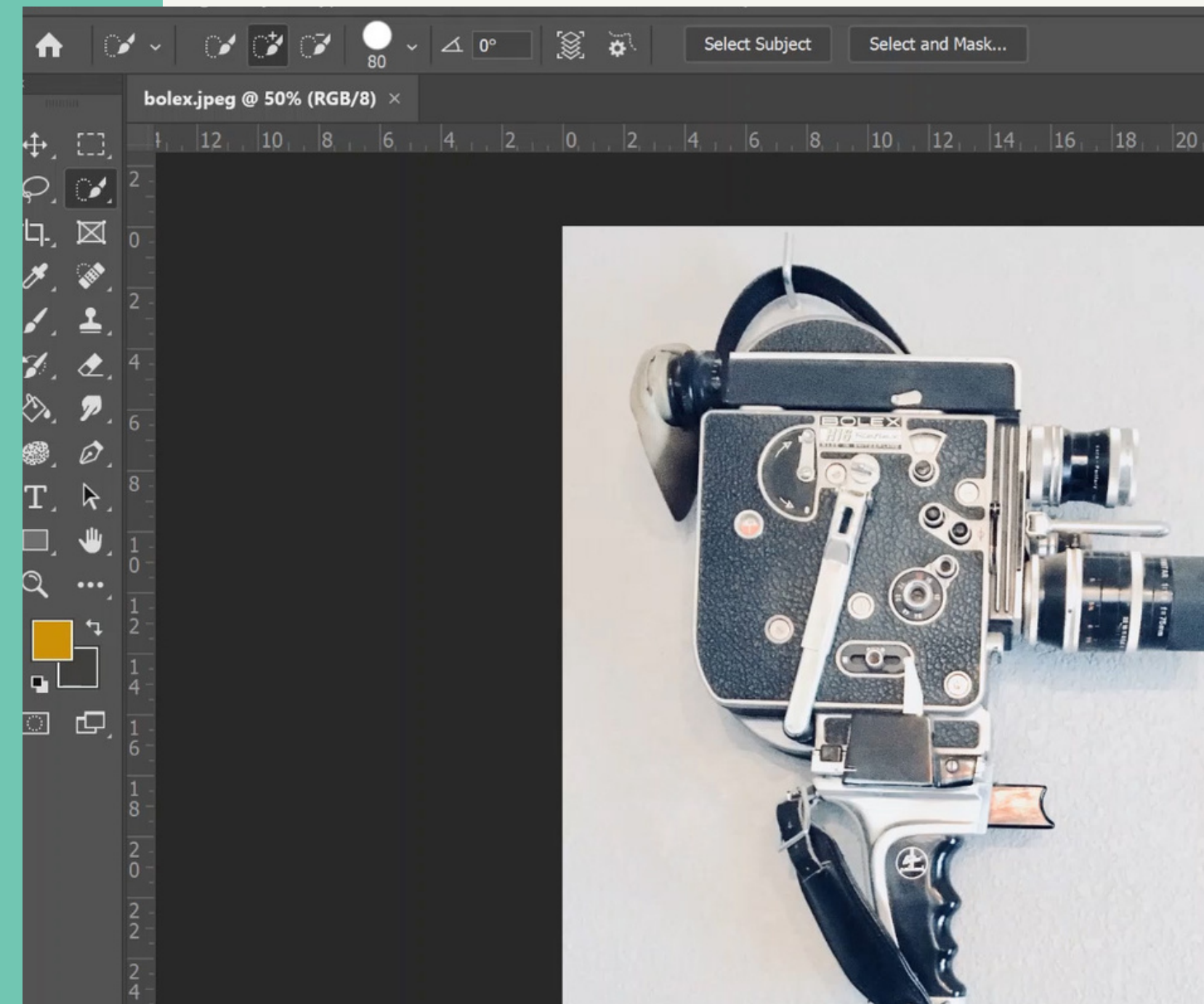
Artists Roy Beck, Charles Peter and Edward Owens started experimenting with Chromic Acid Salt Solutions for creating emulsions to coat on a silkscreen around 1910. There were a lot of inventors and artists patenting their own formulas for these emulsions that revolutionized the commercial print industry. Not only for screen printing but for photo lithography and offset printing as well.

<https://www.widewalls.ch/magazine/screen-printing-silkscreen-prints>

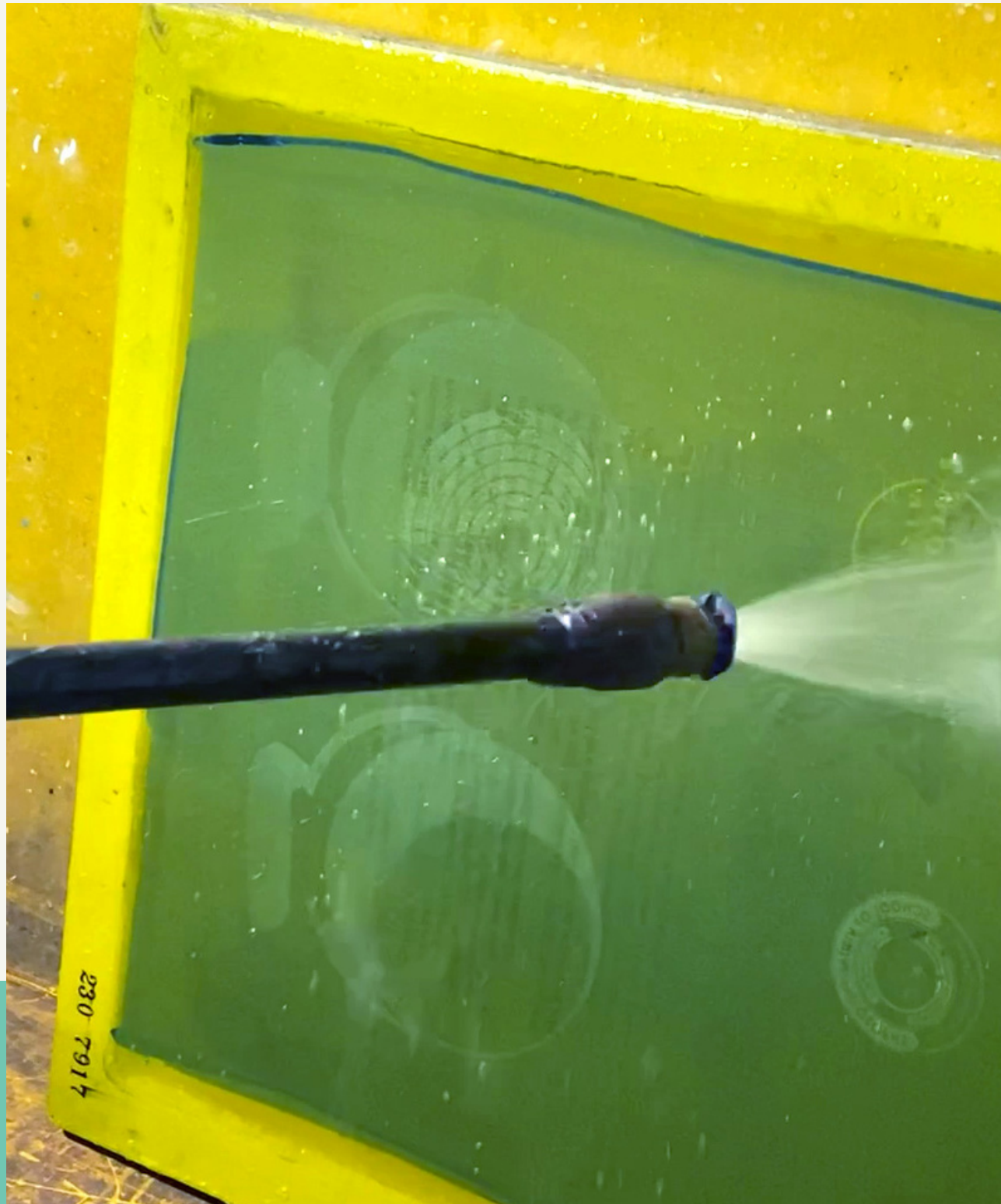


Advancing the Commercial Industry

Not only did the invention and ease of creating photo sensitive stencils revolutionize the commercial print industry, it gave rise to a multitude of applications that screen printing could afford. From tee-shirts to tanks, propaganda posters to wallpaper, fine art to circuit boards, screen printing certainly has infiltrated every aspect of contemporary culture.



Basic Process



Step 1: Coat Screen

The serigraphic screen must first be coated with the light sensitive emulsion in dim light (some emulsions require pre-mixing with a sensitizer to make them light reactive)

Step 2: Let dry

The emulsion coating must be thoroughly dry IN THE DARK for the process to work, and a minimum of 4–8 hours is recommended

Step 3: Expose

The dried emulsion coating can now be exposed to light, and wherever the artist wishes to allow ink to pass through, there needs to be some kind of OPAQUE image or flat object. UV light is usually best for this step for most emulsions.

Step 4: Wash out

After the screen has been exposed to light for an appropriate time depending on the type of light source, it can be taken to a sink for water to wash out the areas where the emulsion was "blocked out" by the opaque image. These areas have remained un-cured, or un-hardened by the light, so can be removed.

How to tell your Story through Photo Emulsion

Realism

Take advantage of photo emulsion's ability to produce a photographic halftone. Use your own photos and play with color to achieve different feelings for your audience

Spontaneity

Once the screen is made, it can be placed on anything flat (even a vertical window!) so consider how the results can be portable

Multiple Color Layers

This process really makes it simple to turn multi colored images into prints. Consider if you want a more graphic, solid color overlay or a more realistic full 4 color process image

Expressiveness

Don't forget about hand drawn stencils! There's no reason why your positive can't be made with sharpie or India ink for a unique look

Get Social With Us



We'd love to
connect

Phone Number

831-205-3406

Email Address

classes@schoolofvisualphilosophy.com

Website

www.schoolofvisualphilosophy.com