

## Welcome to Praxis Access Membership!

Please read on for information on membership rules and responsibilities & darkroom policies and procedures.

### Basics

- Access is a membership-based workspace. Only registered members who are current on dues or paid workshop participants are allowed to work in this space.
- Members use Access Darkrooms at their own risk, and should fully read [Darkroom Hazards](#) before entering the work space.
- All members should carefully review our **General Rules Below**. Repeated failure to comply with member responsibilities can result in termination of membership without refund.
- All members should carefully review and sign the Liability Release form at Orientation. It is your responsibility to ask a Praxis staff member if you have any questions or concerns about use of the darkroom. You may not work in the Darkroom without a signed Liability Release.
- Praxis provides basic black and white developing chemicals for use in the darkroom. If you wish to bring your own chemicals, please notify Praxis and you will be responsible for your own chemistry when you are using it.
- Absolutely no guests are allowed to work in the darkroom without prior authorization from Praxis. Unauthorized guests will result in termination of membership.
- Absolutely no children under the age of 12 are allowed in the space, unless for a class or workshop, without prior authorization from Praxis.
- Praxis is not responsible for any lost, damaged or stolen items left unattended.
- Praxis reserves the right to revoke without refund the membership of any members who consistently do not respect other members, follow workroom procedures, or clean according to the posted guidelines.

## **General Rules & Working Guidelines**

- Always assume that someone is working in the darkroom when entering the room. Use only the revolving darkroom door to enter the darkroom. Being careless when entering the darkroom can result in ruining another member's work.
- Take care with enlargers and accessories including easels, timers, and grain focusers. This equipment can be fragile. When adjusting easels, do so with the frames open, so as not to damage the blades. When adjusting enlargers, always grip the enlarger head tightly before loosening the bolts, as some enlarger heads are spring loaded.
- Use tongs and trays only with the chemicals for which they are labeled to avoid cross-contamination.
- Members should be respectful of others and should attempt to remove prints and films from wash stations promptly, in order to give the next person access to the washer.
- The film loading stations are in the dry room.
- Please do not use the darkroom for toning prints if anyone else is working in the darkroom.
- Remember that cleanliness in the lab is crucial to having a quality workspace for all! Show respect to your fellow members by cleaning up after yourself. Pay special attention when you leave to the steps below in order to be sure you are fulfilling your membership responsibilities.

## **Before You Leave**

- Always leave your enlarger station or workspace in better condition than you found it. Lenses, film carriers, and timers should remain with their designated enlargers. Grain focusers, easels, and filters should be returned to their respective storage areas.
- Thoroughly wash all film tanks and leave all components un-assembled and inverted, in the drying rack.

- Review the cleaning list by the front door and choose at least one item off the list to complete. Leave your initials and the date next to each completed item. Always take your personal trash with you when you leave!

### **Important!**

- For fire, police or medical emergencies, CALL 911.
- Building address is 2637 27th Ave South. Minneapolis, MN 55406
- First aid kit is located in the restroom and the utility sink nozzle can be pulled out to use as an eye wash.
- For building issues of a time sensitive nature (like plumbing leaks or electricity issues) call 612-475-1605 If you do not get an answer, be sure to leave a message describing the problem. If possible, please do not leave the building if there is a large issue happening.

### **Have an issue? Please let us know!**

Contact the onsite Praxis Staff Member

- If a piece of equipment isn't working properly, please do not try fix it yourself - let us help!
- If we are running low on a certain chemical, let the Praxis lab monitor know and we will mix more stock solution.
- Please be mindful that this is a shared space. If you think you may have contaminated a working solution or if you may have damaged a piece of equipment, don't leave it for someone else to discover, just let us know. We understand that accidents happen.

### **Protect Yourself and Your Prints**

Wear gloves or use tongs when processing. Only use your bare hands to remove prints from the water or wash your prints.

When you are done, whether you've used tongs or gloves, please wash your hands before eating, drinking, or smoking.

There are small wash clothes provided, please dry your hands frequently to cut down chemical contamination. Leave used clothes hanging to dry on the sink.

Clean up spills immediately with lots of cold water and ensure all the chemicals are removed from the floor or table. Chemistry dries, turns into a powder, and can then get on your clothing, skin or be inhaled.

Please no food or snacks in the Darkroom. Water with a lid is permitted, but please avoid drinks that would be sticky if spilled.

## **Be Safe**

Most B&W chemicals are non-toxic or only slightly toxic, but please do not ingest, inhale, or allow them to come in direct contact with your bare skin.

There is a slight chance of bronchitis, sinusitis, allergic sensitivity, skin rashes and other potential damage (primarily that occurs from long-term, unsafe exposure), so please follow Praxis rules for handling chemistry in the Darkroom.

If you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant or taking any lithium carbonate-based medication that you have your doctor's approval to work with B&W chemistry. If you notice any sensitivity or change in your health while working in the Darkroom, please immediately consult your physician.

## **In the Event of an Emergency**

Inhalation of Chemistry: Move to fresh air immediately. If you are struggling to breathe, **call 911. We are located** 2637 27th Ave South. Minneapolis, Mn 55406.

Ingestion of Chemistry: Call poison control at **1-800-222-1222** and tell them what the person ingested and follow their directions to help the person. If more information is needed for poison control, check the MSDS (Materials Data Sheets) for all the chemicals we use in the Darkroom. **DO NOT** induce vomiting unless poison control tells you to do so, and **DO NOT** give liquids to a person that is unconscious.

Chemicals Splashed in Eyes: Immediately flood the eyes with cold water at the white utility sink. Rinse them for 15 minutes. Seek immediate medical attention.

Chemicals Splashed on Skin: Immediately flood skin with cold water at the white utility sink. Seek immediate medical attention if any severe change in skin condition occurs.

## **Chemistry Hazards**

**Black & White Developer:** Can cause allergic reaction and allergic sensitivity and is especially hazardous during stock mixing stage. Use gloves when mixing working solutions and avoid skin contact with both powder and solution.

**Stop Bath:** Concentrate is toxic via skin contact, inhalation, or ingestion. Long-term, improper, inhalation of working solution can cause severe sinusitis and bronchitis. Always measure water first and then add acid. If you splash in your eyes or skin, follow the procedures above.

**Fixer:** Not significantly hazardous, but there is a chance for skin irritation and allergies. If you splash in your eyes or skin, follow the procedures above.

**Toners:** We do not provide toners for use in the Darkroom. Some are highly toxic, and some are only mildly toxic. If you are using a toner, never mix it with stop bath or fixers due to the potential release of poisonous gas like hydrogen sulfide. Always wash prints very thoroughly before toning them.