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Get Wet

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# GET WET

There is an abundance of flow phenomena's in which we think about, experiment with and interact with in our everyday lives. The process of trial and error is what allowed me to create the image, which clearly exemplifies a scientific demonstration with artistic qualities. For this " Get Wet" project, my goal was to create a visually stimulating photograph using a mixture of Ultra concentrated dishwashing liquid soap and colored dye. I wanted to photograph fluid motion in a state where, overtime, could continue to evolve and react with each other while still retaining each distinct property. This process allowed me to work in a controlled environment because since the soap was so thick it didn't allow the dye to lose its properties as fast as it would have in water or other thin materials. When I first attempted this phenomenon, I started with canola oil and dye. The errors I encountered were ones I feared before I started the project. The dye didn't bleed at all. The dye only sat, untouched at the top of the oil and didn't really create much of an interesting image so I switched to soap, which was a little less dense and allowed the colored dye to seep, slowly into different formations within the concentrated solution of choice. Any movement or distraction made the dye spread out on top and then smear into the soap of choice. With the soap, the dye was able to move, spread and mix as it liked and happened to create a captivating image. The purpose of my image is to show the reaction between two different buoyancies using a dense

solution and a less dense color material in order to differentiate the two. This phenomenon should produce an image, which shows the chemical interaction of two completely opposite solutions while resulting in an eye-pleasing photograph.

I used a flat, plain white porcelain plate as the surface I worked on. Having a white background allowed me to capture a more brilliant and defined image while permitting me to clearly see the chemistry between the substances. I lay the plate on a flat surface, far from any interference with wind or sudden movement. I was unsure at first which way I wanted to go about with my experiment, either place the colored dye drops on the plate first and then poured the dishwasher soap on top or visa versa. After trying it both ways. I found that I received the clearest results when I placed 3-5 drops of dye on the plate before I poured the soap because it allowed the thicker material to break down particles of the dye and disburse them throughout the plate. After about, 5-10, seconds of letting the dye travel as it pleased slowly into the solution I added 2-3 more drops on the outer edge which allowed the more dense solution to form a distinct outline and border.

I did not dilute the state of either chemical during this process, I simply let the original state of the solutions act and interact with each other while I observed the process and results. When I started photographing the flow phenomenon I did not use a flash because I was inside in a and controlled light setting but found that I took away from the detail in the image by creating a false light source. When I move the plate outside, to natural lighting, I used the flash even though I had sunlight. The chemistry between natural light and the flash is what allowed me to capture the image of the fluid flow I chose to use.

I used a 30 mm Canon EOS Rebel XT digital camera. When shooting the photograph the lens was held about 2-3 inches away from the plate and at a slight angle. While the focal length was 35 mm, the aperture was set at 4.5 and the shutter speed was at 1/125 which is in correspondence to the rest of the image.

Although I made manipulations in my final image, I was relatively pleased visually with the results of original image. On Photoshop, I enhanced the yellow soap coloring and adjusted the sharpness of the overall picture. I also cropped the outer most part of the image, in order to focus of the main aspect of the photograph, which I wanted to capture.

The final image of the interaction between the concentrated soap and colored dye contains visual movement of lines direction and distinct fluid motion. The composition, as a whole, is a balanced image of brilliant artistic color and emotion mixed with scientific material and mediums. Although this experiment took many attempts and trials, the final result allows the purpose of my project to be seen in an abstract manner. If I had more time to work on this, I would attempt to mix other solutions with different densities and concentration levels into the procedure and allow time to observe the reaction that comes of it. Considering, this was my first time incorporating art with science, I feel satisfied with the results I obtained.