REGISTERING COLOR SEPARATION NEGATIVES.
René Smets

REGISTERING NÉGATIVES

1 YELLOW
2 MAGENTA
3 CYAM
4 BLACK
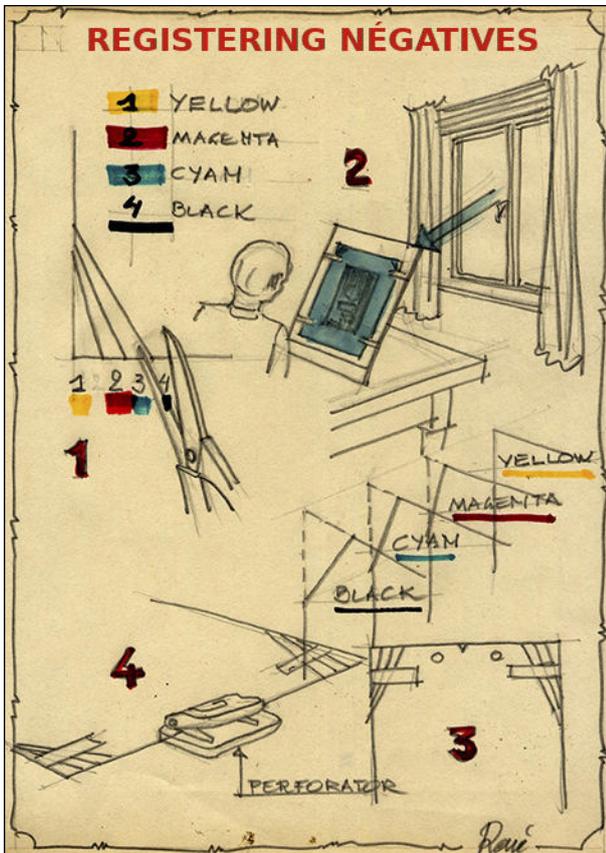
I went back to four-color gum printing. This implies that the negatives for the different colours have to be printed in register.

I know that this was discussed at a Picto meeting a few months ago, and that Cedric Muscat also demonstrated his own method, but as this technique is often used in historic photographic processes, I thought it might be interesting to summarize it in a document.

To position the colour separation negatives in register, I proceed as follows:

I use the computer to make four colour separations (yellow - magenta - cyan - black) from an analog colour negative (or positive).

They have to be placed in exactly the same place on the sensitized paper.

The yellow negative remains unchanged; for the other three, I cut oblique corners at both ends of a small side, so that these corners are offset when the negatives are superimposed. (SKETCH 1 - PICTURE 2)
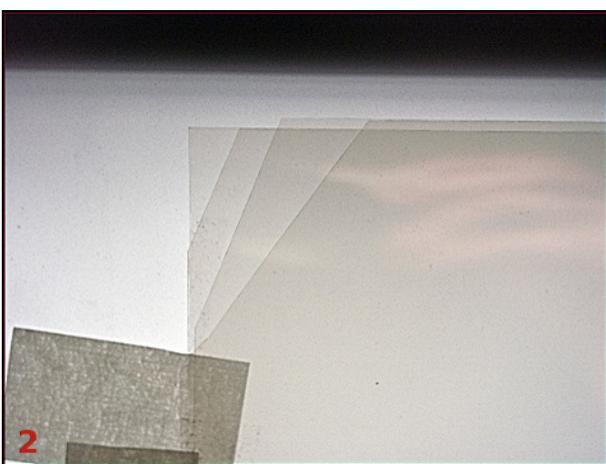
To register the negatives, I mounted a matte glass in a system similar to a painter's easel. I place it in front of a window so that the light illuminates the glass from behind.
(SKETCH 2 - PICTURE 1)
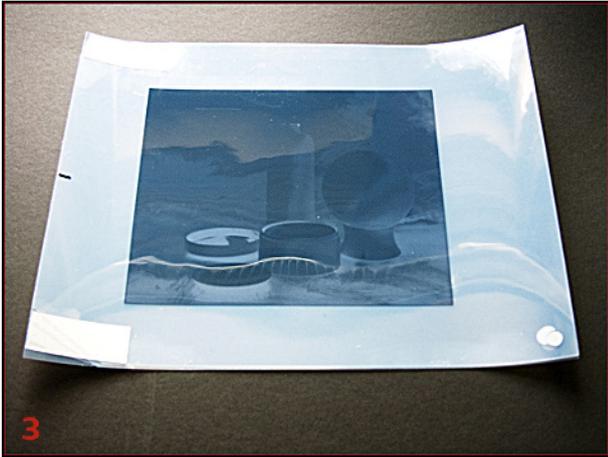
The negatives are fixed one by one on the glass with adhesive tape; first the yellow negative which has not been cut, then the magenta, cyan and black.
To make registering easier, I traced a black line around the image.
I put adhesive tape on all the overlapping corners: the four negatives are then sticking together in register.
I traced a line in the middle of this small side with a marker (SKETCH 3 - PICTURE 3)

Note.
Apply the adhesive tape to the unprinted side of the transparent film.

I then remove this sandwich from the glass and punch two holes centered along the marker line.

(SKETCH 4) The adhesive can then be removed.
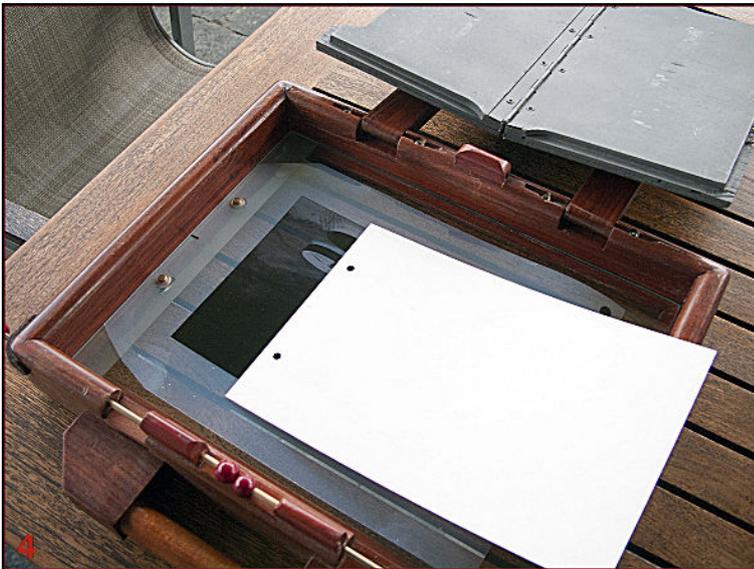
If I now place the perforated negatives on the register pins in the printing frame, with the perforated paper on top, everything will be perfectly in register at each exposure. (PICTURE 4)

It takes a lot of preparation, but the work is worth it: the system is very practical and works flawlessly.

René Smets
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(*translation: J. Kevers*)