



## Lexicon

\* Cf. Lexicon

\*\* neologism by Pierre Cordier

**auto-chemigram** \*\* (1979) Imprint of the face, the body, or a part of the body made with a localizing\* product on a photosensitive emulsion\*.

**Bayard Hippolyte** (1801-1887) In 1839, invented a photographic technique using negative paper. His talent as an inventor was overshadowed because of the success of the daguerreotype.

**Bissectrix** \*\* (1972-1979) The lines formed by the " magic varnish\*" create clearer areas in the angles which underline the bissectrices. In a square, they form an « X ». From this observation came the idea to create the Bissectrix alphabet. Each letter can be read by following the virtual image formed by the changing directions of the parallel lines.

**cameraless photography** Photography without the use of a camera. Cf. Photogram\*, cliché-verre\*, lensless\* photography.

**camera obscura** In which an image is formed by the light rays passing through a small hole or a lens.

**CHazard** \*\* (1975) Chemigram whose forms are organized according to random numbers.

**chemigram** \*\* The chemigram , invented in 1956 by Pierre Cordier, combines the physics of painting (varnish, wax, oil) and the chemistry of photography (photosensitive emulsion\*, developer\*, fixer\*); without the use of a camera, an enlarger, and in full light. In 1958, to describe his technique, Pierre Cordier coined the words, today used worldwide: **chimigramme** in French; chemigram in English, in Dutch & Flemish; **Chemigramm** in German; **chimigramma** in Italian; **quimigrama** in Spanish & Portuguese. ( The word « chimigramme » was patented in March 1963 & the word « chemigram » in 1979 )

**chemigrammer** \*\* or **chemigramist** \*\* or **chemigrapher** One who utilizes the chemigram technique.

**chemigram negative** \*\* (1956) Chemigram on negative material (film, plate).

**chromogenous** Developer used in color photography.

" **cliché-verre** " A plate covered with opaque substances, sometimes engraved. Printed as a negative. Examples : 1 2

**coupler** A chemical product used in color photography. It reacts with the chromogenous\* developer and forms a color. Cyan, magenta, yellow formatives are the basic couplers.

**Dedalogram** \*\* (1987) Chemigram based on a maze.

**developer** In photography, the watery solution which reveals the silver salts of the photosensitive emulsion\* exposed to light. In chemigram, produces black, grey and colors.

**(photographic) emulsion** Made of silver salts in gelatin and sensitive to the effects of light. It is spread on paper, glass plate, film, canvas, aluminium or other medium.

**fixer** In photography, watery solution that eliminates the undeveloped silver salts from the photosensitive emulsion. In chemigram, produces white, yellow, brown.

**Generative Fotografie** Systematic and constructive creation in photography. First exhibition at the Kunsthaus of Bielefeld in Germany. Movement founded in 1968 by Gottfried Jäger, P.C. and others.

**gram** From the Greek "gramma ": written sign.

**Hergram** \*\* (1985) Photo-chemigram based upon the first six "Tintin" albums by Hergé.

**Hexagram** (1975) Photo-chemigram based upon the 64 signs of the Yi King, the oldest holy book of China.

**Illegibiligram** Neologism by Georges Thinès in his short story : " Le Livre illisible "

**Islamgram** \*\* (1982) Chemigram based upon arab texts.

lensless photography Photography realized without the use of optics, i.e. without camera or enlarger.

**Livrillisible** \*\* (1964-78) "Illegiblebook". Based on the novel by Jorge Luis Borges : " La Bibliothèque de Babel ", in " Fictions ", Gallimard, Paris, 1957 . A text is first rendered illegible using an enlarger, then is treated as a photo-chemigram and appears as a plate or small book .

**localizing product** \*\* (1956) Create the forms in a chemigram. Ingredients found in painting's components : varnish, wax, oil, eggs as well as grease, glue, honey, apple syrup, adhesive, felt-tip pens, etc.

**Man Ray** (1890-1976) Sculptor, painter, film maker and photographer. Belonged to the Surrealist group. In 1921, he discovered the photogram technique which he called " rayograph ".

**Marey Etienne Jules** (1830-1904) French physiologist. Studied motions with chronography then with chronophotography.

**Moholy-Nagy László** (1895-1946) Sculptor, painter, designer, film maker, photographer and professor at the Bauhaus. Made photograms\* in 1922.

**Mohr Manfred** (1938) German pioneer in computer art. In 1972, he drew certain of his programs which Pierre Cordier treated as a chemigram.

**Musigram** \*\* (1977) Chemigram resembling a musical partition.

**Muybridge Eadweard James** (1830-1904) Studied movement through photographic sequences. First images of a galloping horse in 1878.

**photo-chemigram** \*\* (1963) A technique that makes it possible by a photomechanical process, to transfer an image (drawing or photo) onto the photographic emulsion and then treat it as a chemigram.

**photogram** Photograph obtained without a camera by placing objects between the light source and the photosensitive surface.

**photolysis** Usually, the decomposition of a chemical product by the effects of light. In chemigram, the photographic paper turns blue, mauve, brown, reddish or ochre depending on the emulsion being used.

**photo-resist** Process based on photosensitive varnishes used in printed circuits. Used to realize certain photo-chemigrams.

**silkscreen process** Used to realize photo-chemigrams.

**Subjektive Fotografie** Movement founded by Otto Steinert in 1951. At the Köln Photokina in 1958, Steinert exhibited in the " Subjektive Fotografie 3 " section three images by Pierre Cordier.

**(magical) varnish** \*\* (1972) Localizing product with amazing properties. In liquids it detaches itself steadily from its support. By alternating the developer and fixer baths, from a single incision in the varnish, it traces an unlimited number of parallels on either side of the incision line.

**water** Element of chemigram ( like fire is to ceramic technique ). Used as an ingredient in the developer and the fixer. It dissolves, erodes, raises the localizing product.