

“Untitled”

Sam Brower

In order to move away from the barrage of equipment and technology the simplest equipment was used to create this series. The images were shot with a 1930s era Kodak NO.2 Brownie box camera (acquired from a thrift store), they were then developed with a caffenol solution (instant coffee, washing soda, vitamin C). Caffenol is not regarded as a standard developer because of its tendency to stain the negative and highlight the grain in the film. By removing the digital photography aspect in the creation of the negatives, everything was simple, clean and straightforward.

For this series, the flaws that are often associated with caffenol just further add to the images. The texture of the grain and soft focus of the camera enhances the dirty, rough construction scenes. Starting with the most basic materials, the images are allowed to exist as they were captured. There is no need to “clean” them up digitally or “sterilize the image.”