

Recycled National Geographic/CitraSolv Art Technique

CitraSolv is a concentrated cleaning product, containing the oils of Valencia Oranges to make a powerful de-greaser. This is the only product that will work for this technique, and *National Geographic* magazines are the only ones that work properly. Some artists swear by the *New York Times Magazine*, but since it's not readily available, we'll be working with *National Geographic*.

There are several ways to apply the product: brush, spritzer, dripping, cotton balls, etc.

The Basic Technique

Go through the magazine first and remove any response cards or ad insertions. These just get in the way. Also remove any images you may want to work with in other projects.

If you discover pages you want to work with, brush the CitraSolv over the entire page or just a portion. Press the pages together really good.

Continue painting/spritzing, etc. until you have quite a few pages done. Set a heavy object on the magazine and let it set for 10-15 minutes.

Pull the pages apart. If you want more abstraction, add more CitraSolv and press again.

TIPS

- Don't be stingy with the CitraSolv. You need quite a bit to get any good results, and you need to press the back of each page as you coat it.
- If using a paint brush or foam brush, try applying CitraSolv only to certain portions of the page, leaving any interesting objects untouched.
- Try to avoid pages with a lot of copy. Since it's usually printed in black, that only adds more black color to your papers, and you can wind up with one hot mess. On the other hand, wiping the pages with lots of words with a cloth dipped in CitraSolv can make for a nice transfer from a brightly colored photo.
- Try to select pages that have vibrant colors.

- If your pages don't have much change when you pull them apart, just apply more CitraSolv. I've had to apply it as many as four times, but I'm always happy with the results.
- Once you have the first prints made, try lifting out color with CitraSolv on a Q-tip, cotton ball or paper towel, or adding color with stamps and dye ink pads or inks applied with a brush or stylus.
- If you have a lot of pieces left at the end of a project, try adhering them all to a sheet of card stock or patterned paper, overlaying the edges. Scan this piece of serendipity paper, then use the prints to create more art.
- Sometimes, just stacking the pages with a 1/2" offset can create interesting patterns. Just make copies and print them as you need them. NOTE: When using CitraSolv to transfer photos to paper, canvas, metal, etc., you must use laser copies. Your ink-jet prints will just smear.
- Be sure to place some newspapers or a garbage bag on your work surface. You can use the plastic bag to smoosh textures into the wet ink. Rubber gloves are also recommended.
- Double-page photo layouts are the best for a huge amount of color.
- Don't feel that you have to use adjacent pages. Tear out any images you particularly like and transfer them to a page with less ink coverage.
- Once you have your pages pressed together, spritz CitraSolv across the top edge of the magazine to work it down between the pages.
- Try to remember to wear rubber gloves and an apron. This is messy work.
- Remember that there are no mistakes and that this is an uncertain art. It's best to not expect your work to look like anyone else's work. Go into this with no expectations and you'll always be happy with the results.