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Cement LB

USG D ROCK
Concrete Formwork

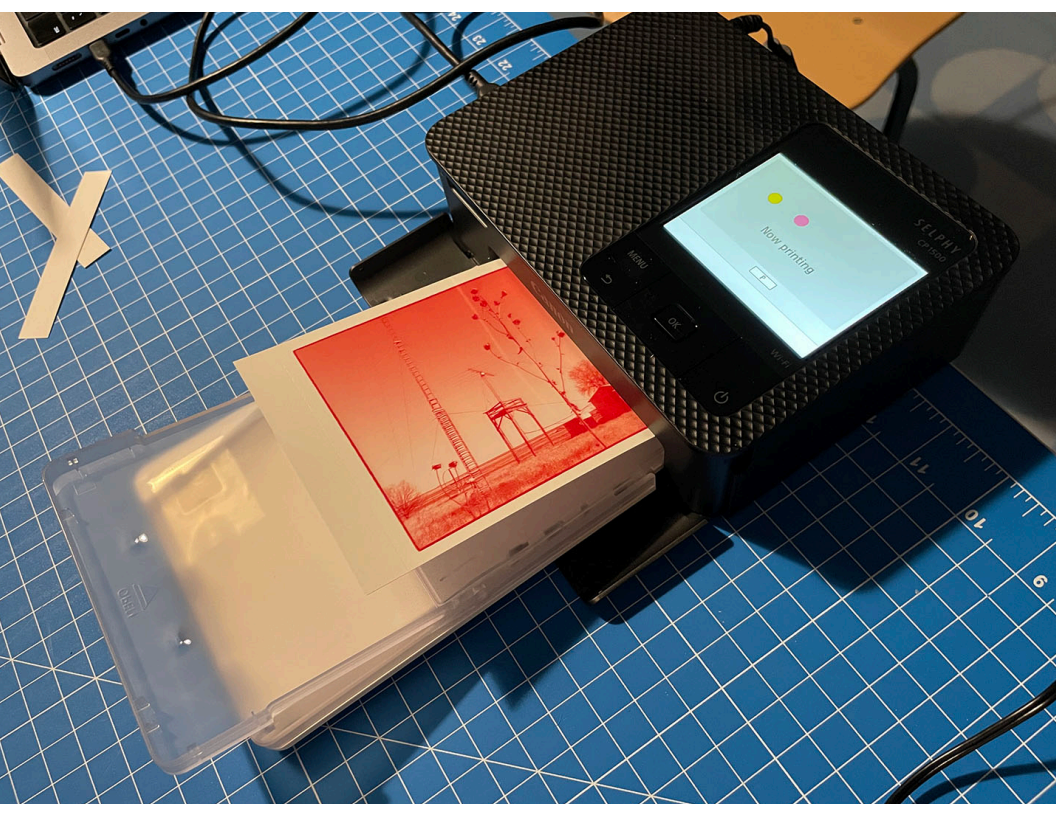
))) THE STUDIO (((

The most ambitious project of the year has been the construction of our studio. We poured the concrete footers in 2024 and began building on top of them in March of 2025. The proportions are the same as the cabin: 14 x 16 feet on the outside. Corn and I cut every board and nailed/screwed them into place, installed windows and a patio door, insulated the roof and wall cavities, hoisted the roofing into place, covered the outside with 24 gauge steel, rusted it with hydrogen peroxide and vinegar, buried both ethernet and electrical lines from the workshop, covered the interior walls with drywall, decorated the plywood floor with a complex stencil pattern, and built a long desk along the east wall. We worked on days of fine weather between our job commitments. After six months, we began moving in, just in time for my 53rd birthday. Now, at last, we had a place to unpack artwork and setup our tools for producing new work.

))) XMAS & NEW YEARS' PRINTS (((

At the end of my first semester of grad school (Fall 2006), Thomas Roma gave each of us a 5x7 gelatin-silver print he had made--his long standing Christmas tradition! From 2007 to 2019, I printed gelatin-silver prints to give out at the end of each year--following in the tradition. The photograph was always one made that year. A single sheet of 11x14 Ilford Warmtone photo paper yielded four prints when trimmed down. In 2020, I "downgraded" to inkjet prints due to limited darkroom access. They look great, but lack the same home-made feel and cachet. This year, I didn't teach at an institution with access to such a printer. I considered not sending out a print. However, when building our off-grid studio I gave a lot of thought to what infrastructure I wanted to put in place: what was practical; what was possible; what was sustainable; what was exciting. You are holding a result of that right now. I'm calling it "lo-fi printing".





))) LO-FI PRINTING (((

My first purchase for the studio was a Canon Selphy dye-sublimation printer that makes 4x6" prints. The quality~~x~~ is okay, good enough~~x~~ to see the image and hold a print in your hand, pin it to a wall, or make it into a sequence. You wouldn't put it in a frame; it's a lo-fi rendering of the hi-fi original. That's what I'm giving out this year. The photograph was made as a class example. I asked students to carry a mirror and hold it up to impose the mirror's reflected image within their frame.

In our studio, you will also find a 1940s Underwood typewriter, a paper trimmer, a comb binding machine, rubber stamps, and a saddle stapler, most of which I used to produce this booklet. The ideax is to create more work like this rather than big, gorgeous prints. I'm envisioning some type of lo-fi/hi-fi hybrid where the physical book is more of a zine and the hi-fi is available on my website.

))) WEBSITE / BLUESKY (((

I closed my Instagram account this year. The algorithm feed was too much. I'm posting on Bluesky (@kaimcbride.com). Join up! I've also undertaken an overhaul of my website, starting with a blank slate. I rethought the purpose and moved away from an online portfolio (although that exists) and prioritized more blog posts and hosting the hi-fi content I mentioned above.

<https://kaimcbride.com>

This is the first lo-fi/hi-fi experiment. A full-color PDF of this booklet and a higher resolution version of the photograph are available there. You can jump right to it by using the QR code. Send me an email if you are interested in receiving more of these booklets/zines/printings.
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

