Carolyn Rogers—Platinum/Palladium

**Platinum/Palladium Images:** Platinum/palladium is a time-honored process known for its rich tonal scale and permanence. While making prints by hand is a slow and exacting process, each print is a unique, vintage quality print. The prints are contact prints, where the negative is the size of the desired print. In brief, the steps are as follows:

* *Mixing the emulsion.* Drops from 2 solutions of ferric oxalate (one with a small amount of potassium chlorate) are combined with metal salts (platinum and palladium). Platinum renders a cold (black) tone, and palladium a warm (brown) tone. The quantity of drops from each of the 4 solutions is determined by the size and density of the negative as well as the desired contrast of the print. The solution (emulsion) is then mixed in a shot glass.
* *Paper.* Watercolor paper is coated with the emulsion and left to dry over night.
* *Exposure.* The negative is placed on the coated paper and covered with glass in a contact printer. The paper is then exposed to direct sunlight, with length of exposures determined by the density of the negative and strength of the sun.
* *Development.* Next, the print is developed using ammonium citrate and cleared with hydrochloric acid or EDTA (to remove the yellow cast from the ferric oxalate).
* *Finishing.* The prints are thoroughly washed and left to dry.