



Title: [Lipstick]

Artist: Imre Révész (American, born Hungary, 1895–1975)

Artist: Irma Biró (Hungarian, active 1920s–1950s)

Date: 1940s

Medium: Transparency
Dimensions: Frame: Approx. 17 x 14 in.

Classification: Transparencies

Credit Line: Gift of Paula Wright, 1982

At first glance, *Lipstick* catches the eye with its vibrant colors and aspects from afar, causing the viewers to come closer and look at it. This is what originally caught my attention, because in the small room filled with black and white images that were boring to me, this image was the only one with color, and that stood out to me because I am very observant. The square shape of the image provides a balanced structure, while its slight waviness adds a sense of movement, and for some reason, I find white stripes cool so I also liked that aspect. Together, these elements help immediately bring people's attention to this photograph, which is why I will be delving into it.

Diving into the details of the photo reveals an intriguing mix of elements that catch the eye. The focal point, Lipstick, stands out not just for its color but for its layer of unexpectedness. Alongside, the white stripes create a contrast, drawing attention to the boldness of the lipstick. The careful arrangement of these elements within the frame adds to the overall composition, inviting viewers to ponder the significance behind their placement. This looks as if it is something that is being sold and put on display, which is why I originally thought it was a bullet casing as I got closer because it looked like it was an expensive ammunition cartridge.

Furthermore, the lipstick emerges as the only colorful element in the picture, starkly contrasting with the monochrome backdrop of lines and shapes. This intentional decision highlights the lipstick's importance and draws focus to its shape, making it the center of attention that captures the viewer's eye and encourages reflection. The vivid pink shade of the lipstick radiates with energy and vitality, stirring feelings of desire, passion, and allure. Its striking presence within the composition serves as a visual focal point, holding the viewer's gaze and encouraging them to delve deeper into the image's underlying meanings.

At the heart of the impact of *Lipstick* lies its medium: transparency. Révész and Biró utilize a distinct photographic technique, capturing the image on a transparent surface. This allows light to filter through, illuminating the colors and intricacies with a luminous touch. This choice of medium enhances the saturated pink hues, lending the scene a sense of depth and radiance. The translucent quality of the photograph adds an otherworldly charm, shrouding the composition in a veil of mystery and enchantment that enthralls the viewer's mind.

Moreover, the arrangement of elements in *Lipstick* showcases a thoughtful composition of shapes, lines, and forms, resulting in a cohesive and balanced visual story. Depth is skillfully portrayed, drawing viewers into the scene and encouraging exploration of its complexities. The precise depiction of the subject enhances the photograph's impact, while subtle shifts between focus and blur are intriguing, prompting viewers to ponder its deeper meanings. Through these compositional choices, Révész and Biró craft a visually captivating narrative that goes beyond the confines of the image, urging viewers to delve into its symbolism and allure.

In conclusion, *Lipstick* by Imre Révész and Irma Biró serves as a testament to the power of visual storytelling and the transformative potential of artistic mediums, through its exploration of vibrant color, meticulous composition, and thematic depth. As a transparency, it exemplifies the nuanced interplay between medium and message, underscoring the profound impact that art can have on our perceptions and emotions.