HOW TO SIMULATE DARKROOM DIFFUSION BY SELECTIVELY BLURRING THE BLACK TONES OF AN IMAGE.

1. Select your image; it can be Monochrome or COLOUR. Here we have selected a Monochrome image in RGB Mode.

2. Make a Background Copy layer by dragging the Background layer to the “Create a new layer” icon.
3. Press Control / I on the keyboard to invert the image. Your print should now look like a negative.

4. Select Filter/Distort/Diffuse glow. Set Graininess to 6, Glow Amount to 10 and Clear amount to 15. Then click OK.
5. You should now see what are the dark areas of the Positive Image, now white, diffused and glowing.

6. Press Control / I on the keyboard to invert the image. Your print should now look like a positive again but with diffused dark tones.
7. With the Background Copy layer selected, hold down the Alt button on the keyboard and click on the Add layer mask icon. You should now see a black layer mask, that now masks the effects of the filter that you have just applied.

8. Set the foreground colour to white and select the brush tool.
9. Zoom in to an area that you wish the filter effect to be applied to, choose your brush size and using the brush tool set at a low opacity, click on the black mask and “PAINT” back the filter effect on your selected areas. If you want to remove an over applied filter effect, change the foreground colour to Black and “paint” with black instead of white.

10. Here is the finished image with the effect applied selectively. Notice that you can see the white areas on the layer mask where the filter has been applied.