



Smithsonian Associates

Hands-On History of Photography – The Cyanotype

Instructor: Pat Howard

Materials Needed:

- cyanotype paper - order from B & H Photo: (\$18.95)
https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/762390-REG/Blue_Sunprints_1616711_Cyanotype_Paper_8.html
- a piece of clear glass or plexiglass that is larger than the cyanotype paper (8" x 10")
- approximately 10 objects to use to make cyanotypes (see below for suggestions)
- access to running water
- access to sunlight
- a tray that the paper will easily fit into - it should be larger than the cyanotype paper
- hydrogen peroxide - one 32ounce bottle
- flat surface or hanging surface (like clothesline) for prints to dry. If you use
- clothesline, you'll need clothespins or clips to hold the prints
- cell phone or digital camera

This process which results in blue and white images will involve placing objects upon light-sensitized paper to make outlined or silhouette-like designs. Please have 10 objects ready for class that you would like to work with. When considering objects, think about outlines that are detailed and interesting and whether the objects are transparent or opaque. Each effect is different. Also think about objects that you'd like to group together.

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I will show examples of finished cyanotypes during class, but the following are objects as that I have seen work well for this process:

Clothespins

Eyeglasses

Paper clips

FACEBOOK: SMITHSONIAN STUDIO ARTS INSTAGRAM: @SMITHSONIANASSOCIATES

EMAIL: ASSOCIATES-STUDIOARTS@SI.EDU

Lace

Sheer fabrics

Leaves

Keys

Doilies

Feathers

Pressed plants or flowers

Doll Clothes

Old negatives

Buttons

Slinky

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