



Cyanotype basic workshop guide

Session objective: Participants in the basic 2-hour Cyanotype printing workshop will create their own nature-inspired print/s using natural/found objects, sunlight, and water while developing conversations about the natural world, and the impact humans have on it. Discussions about art and the environment will help participants consider ways of making photographic art that reduces their photographic footprint.

Introduction (15 mins): A short introduction to the Cyanotype history and process, along with health and safety guidance and environmental information.

Initial print (30 mins): Following the workshop tutor, students will create an initial test image using ready-made Cyanotype paper from negatives and/or items provided such as flowers and leaves. This will involve the students either working together to individually to kick-start ideas to respond to the natural world. For example, the participants could use small ferns to replicate a forest scene, or sand to create stars. They will place the items within a glass frame on top of the Cyanotype paper before securing to create the 'contact' and placing outside in the sunshine (or under UV light, weather dependent) for approx. 8-15 mins. Following this, the paper will be washed in water and hung to dry.

Second print (45 mins): Using their initial prints as inspiration, the participants will decide on how they want their next print to look. They will coat watercolour postcards with pre-mixed Cyanotype chemicals before creating a more considered print using the negatives and/or items provided. This could be posted home or framed as a print. Information on chemical use/mixing/storage will be shared during this time. Participants will be encouraged to discuss the difference between the prints they have made and how different materials have differing effects on the outcome.

The timings are a guide. This is a basic level workshop. Any remaining time (30 mins) will be available for further instruction on how to use the process in different ways such as wet cyanotypes or double exposure; further chemical techniques; differing mediums that can be used; book recommendations; and questions.