

**LIVE** Arts

**2022/23**

## **Photo Based Drawing** With Gabriela García-Luna

Date: March 23rd

**Grades: 1 & 2**

**Artistic Discipline:**  
Visual Arts/  
Cyanotype Prints

### **Overview**

Cyanotype is an early photographic process to produce cyan-coloured prints from objects in contact to a light sensitive paper. In this workshop you will learn how to prepare and use cyanotype paper to make prints using plants and other elements from your surroundings.

### **Artist Biography**

Gabriela García-Luna is a photo-based multimedia artist born in Mexico City and based Treaty Six Territory, (Saskatoon). She works on photography, digital work, printmaking, drawing, video and sculpture to investigate relationships with the natural environment, mixed realities and different ways of seeing.

Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally and it has received multiple grants and awards. It is of public and private national and international collections. García-Luna has been involved in teaching, mentoring and community projects in Mexico, Canada and India.

She holds an MFA in Studio Arts from the University of Saskatchewan and a BDes from the Autonomous Metropolitan University (UAM) in Mexico City. Her work is represented by Slate Fine Art Gallery in Regina, Saskatchewan.



### **Materials**

- See attached Supplies list on the LIVE Arts Registration page

### **Classroom Setup**

- Classroom in semi dark conditions to protect light sensitive materials from light.
- Tables protected with paper.

**Area 1:** Students dry tables – For laying plants on the Cyanotype paper with presses

**Area 2:** Sinks with running water– Washing prints

**Area 3:** Cord with pegs – Drying paper and prints

# Curriculum Outcomes and Indicators

## Grade 1

### **Creative/Productive**

CP 1.7 a Observe and describe patterns in the natural and built environments and in selected art works, and explore the use of patterns in own work.

### **Creative/Productive**

CP 1.8 b Identify and explore many different textures, shapes, and forms in own surroundings and in art works.

### **Critical/Responsive**

CR 1.2 a Pose questions about artists and the arts (e.g., Why do you think this artist makes sculptures of cows? How could we make art works that tell people something about our own community?).

## Grade 2

### **Creative/Productive**

CP 2.7 b Identify and represent details in the appearance of plants, animals, people, and objects (e.g., lines, textures, shapes, shadows).

### **Cultural/Historical**

CH 2.1 c Recognize there are a variety of arts expressions in Saskatchewan (e.g., film, dance, theatre, music, photography, graphic design, sculpture, architecture).

### **Creative/Productive**

CP 2.8 b Demonstrate safety, coordination, and skills in using simple visual art tools and materials.

# Workshop Vocabulary

## Photo

Photo comes from a Greek word that means 'light'.

## Photography

Drawing with light or making an image with effects of light.

## Cyan

A color between blue and green in the visible spectrum.

## Cyanotype

An early way that photo's were made that makes blue images using special paper and sunlight.

## Flora

The plants that come from a specific place.

## Shape

The outline of someone or something. Ex: the shape of a plant.

# Pre Workshop Activity

**Name:** Recognizing the Nature Around Us

## Duration

30-50 minutes

## Materials

- A natural space (could be a park) for your students to walk in
- Objects gathered in that natural space

## Exercise I

**Guided Walk In Nature** - *Essential in order to follow along with the broadcast exercise!*

- Choose a place for a short walk in nature in which you can relax and enjoy the environment and where you can collect small things such as leaves plants, branches, twigs, etc.
- We will need to collect small things that that can be placed on an 8" x 10" in surface.
- Students can choose to place one single larger object or several small ones in that area.
- It is better to choose flat objects (like a leaf) over volumetric objects (like a pine cone) as they will later be placed under a manual press.

## Exercise II

**Recognition of Plants and Other Elements in Nature.**

- As you are on the walk, ask the students the following questions:
  - What do you see around that is familiar to you? Trees, rocks, plants, branches, twigs, etc. Observe the specific forms of the different plants and leaves and choose some to collect.
  - Do you know the names of the plants you are collecting?
  - Do you know how they look in different seasons?
  - How they feel when touching them? What is their smell?
  - How do you feel when collecting and connecting with them?
  - Do any of these plants/leaves have any shapes that repeat?
  - Would you like to make art with them?

## Exercise III

**Preparation of Materials.**

- With the gathered materials , students will create a composition to fit on a half letter size sheet of sensitized paper.

To produce Cyanotype prints we will use the following materials

- 8 x 10 light sensitive sheet
- Plants we gathered
- Press – made with 8 x 10 in cardboard, 8 x 10 in transparent sheet, 4 clips
- Tray to rinse prints
- Sink with running water (or substitute)
- Hanging cord with cloth pegs

# Pre Workshop Activity

**Name:** Recognizing the Nature Around Us

## **For Teachers:**

In order to prepare for the broadcast which (due to time constraints) will move at a steady pace, it is recommended that you watch the following videos to see examples of what your class will be doing.

## **Example of How to Make and Soak Cyanotype Paper**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ozxuEhYQq1I>

*NOTE: Our younger grades (Gr 1-4) will not be making their Cyanotype paper from scratch, they will be using pre-made paper bought on Amazon. Feel free to start the above video at 2:43 to see where your students would come into the process.*

## **Example of How to Make a Press**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQ438yKOEYA>

*NOTE: This video repeats many of the steps of the previous one, feel free to watch from 4:18-4:46 to see how the press is made (ours will be created using transparent paper, not glass)*



# Broadcast Program

00:00-00:05

- Introduction of Artist (Bio Video)

00:05 - 00:10

- Recognition of the place we live, the plants and other beings around us.

00:10 - 00:20

- Gathering of Materials, tools and process for Cyanotype prints/Press
- Demonstration for creating a cyanotype print

00:20 - 00:35

- All students take their prints outside

00:35 - 00:45

- Simple Discussion on photography and history
- Explanation of Photograms and Cyanotypes

00:45-00:50

- Question and Answer

# Post Workshop Activity

**Name:** Cyanotype Reflection

## Duration

50 minutes

## Materials

- Cyanotype prints made by students taped on the walls

## Exercise I

### Reflection/Presentation of the Student's Creations

- Hang the student's prints on a wall
- Give each student time to present their print
- Reflect on the prints using the following questions:
  - How that changed from the original yellow-like substance?
  - What are the different tones of color in the print from dark blue to white?
  - How did that happen?
  - What are the shapes that can be found in the prints?
  - Are there geometric shapes such as circles, triangles, squares?
  - Can you find repetition of shapes producing patterns?
  - Can the shapes of the original plants and elements be recognized?
  - If not what other forms and drawings are emerging in the prints?
  - What were the choices selecting plants and making the compositions and why?
  - Do these prints represent the place where you live?

# Additional Information

## Historical Resources on Cyanotype Prints

Smart History. George Eastman Museum, "The Cyanotype (4 of 12)," in Smarthistory, May 5, 2019.  
<https://smarthistory.org/the-cyanotype-4-of-12/>

Natural Museum, UK. Anna Atkins' cyanotypes: the first book of photographs. By Kerry Lotzof  
<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/anna-atkins-cyanotypes-the-first-book-of-photographs.html>

Historical Processes: The Cyanotype. By Cory Rice, 2019  
<https://www.bhphotovideo.com/explora/photography/features/historical-processes-cyanotype>

## Upcoming Workshops - 2022/23

April 5th-6th - Cooper Skjeie - Poetry

May 31st-June 1st - Amanda Murray - Hip Hop Dance

## More Art by the Artist

### Links to Gabriela's Art:

<http://www.gabrielagarcialuna.com/work/>

<https://www.slategallery.ca/gabriela-garcia-luna>

