

LIVE Arts

2022/23

Photo Based Drawing With Gabriela García-Luna

Date: March 24th

Grades: 7 & 8

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: Teacher's table – Chemistry preparation – Brushing cyanotype solution on paper

Area 2: Students dry tables – For laying plants on the paper with presses

Area 3: Sinks with running water– Washing prints

Area 4: Cord with pegs – Drying paper and prints

Curriculum Outcomes and Indicators

Grade 7

Creative/Productive

CP 7.10 e Demonstrate awareness that artists are observant of their environment and often express ideas about the role and representation of place in their work.

Cultural/Historical

CH 7.1 b Describe ways that an artist's place might be a source of inspiration in different arts disciplines (e.g., photography, music styles, architecture, theatre, heritage dances).

Critical/Responsive

CR 7.2 a Analyze and discuss the intentions, development, and interpretations of the concept of place as represented in own and peers' art works.

Grade 8

Creative/Productive

CP 8.11 e Analyze and discuss how images and materials work together to express ideas in a work of art.

Cultural/Historical

CH 8.3 a Ask questions to initiate and develop inquiry into artists who use technology and incorporate technology into their work.

Critical/Responsive

CR 8.1 d Create own work (e.g., visual or performing arts) in response to a professional arts expression, and describe how own work is inspired or influenced by the original work.

Workshop Vocabulary

Photography

Derived from Greek: photo = light and graph=draw. Photography is the process of recording an image on light-sensitive film or via a digital electronic or magnetic memory.

Cyanotype

An early photographic printing process that produces blue prints using coated paper and sunlight.

Light Sensitive

In photography, it is how strongly a surface responds to light changing its appearance.

Exposure

In photography is the amount of light that reaches a light sensitive surface to produce an image.

Photogram

An image produced with photographic materials, such as light-sensitive paper, but without a camera.

Botanical

Relating to plants.

Herbarium

Collection of dried plant specimens mounted on sheets of paper.

Pre Workshop Activity

Name: The History of Photography

Duration

50 minutes

Materials

- A natural space around your school

Exercise I

Photography and History Exploration

- Take some time to briefly fill your class in on the following information around the history of photography

- **Photography:** *The idea of drawing and drawing with light*

Drawing is a form of visual art in which an artist uses instruments to mark paper or other two-dimensional surface with different materials. The word Photography derives from the Greek photo = light and graph = draw, so the word means 'drawing with light' and photography is the process of recording an image on light sensitive surface or, in the case of digital photography, via a digital electronic or magnetic memory, producing a photograph. The first successful photograph was made by the French Nicéphore Niépce in 1822/23
Photograms and Cyanotypes:

- **Photogram:** *a photographic image also made using light on a light-sensitive paper, but made without a camera by placing objects directly onto the surface of a light-sensitive material such as photographic*
- **Cyanotype:** *was invented by British inventor Sir John Herschel using light-sensitive iron salts produced by brushing solutions of ferric ammonium citrate and potassium ferricyanide, also known as Prussian blue, onto paper, which is then dried in the dark and exposed to ultraviolet light (same as in sunlight) and fixed with only water, produce beautiful blue prints*

Exercise II

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 leafs 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.

Broadcast Program

00:00-00:05

- Introduction of Artist (Bio Video)

00:05 - 00:25

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

00:25 - 00:30

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

00:30 - 00:45

- All students take their prints outside

00:45-00:50

- Question and Answer

Post Workshop Activity

Name: Print Presentation & Conversations on Photography

Duration

50 minutes

Materials

- Cyanotype prints made by students on the walls

Exercise I

Print Presentation

- Have each student present their print and talk about what plants they chose and if there is some with special meaning for them
- Ask the students to talk about the choices they made in choosing plants and about the placement in the composition of the print. What is unique about your own choices and prints? How do their prints relate to the place they live and the way they see?

Conversations on Photography

- Explore the following resources and ask the subsequent questions:

Smart History. George Eastman Museum, "The Cyanotype (4 of 12),"

<https://smarthistory.org/the-cyanotype-4-of-12/>

Historical Processes: The Cyanotype. By Cory Rice, 2019

<https://www.bhphotovideo.com/explora/photography/features/historical-processes-cyanotype>

- How do our prints relate to the origins of photography?
- How is this process related to the activity of drawing?
- How does this process relate to the contemporary ways we do photography with automatic devices?

- Explore this resource on Anne Atkins and botanical photography

Natural Museum, UK. Anna Atkins' cyanotypes: the first book of photographs.

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/anna-atkins-cyanotypes-the-first-book-of-photographs.html>

- How is Anne Atkins innovated in the history of photography?
- Do you know of any other artists in Saskatchewan that work from observation of and collaboration with nature through photography, drawing or other disciplines?

Additional Information

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.sategallery.ca/gabriela-garcia-luna>

