

Cyanotype Workshop

This practical activity was developed by artist **Felicity Hammond** and is suitable for students of all ages (KS1 – KS5). It is a simple, inexpensive way of introducing your students to a new medium, expanding their understanding of photographic techniques.



Photo Credit, Sam Ayre

You will need:

Paper, Glue, Black Marker Pen, Magazine, Plastic Wallet, Cyanotype Paper and a sunny day!

Cyanotype is a photographic print process used by engineers in the early 20th century to make large scale, inexpensive reproductions of drawings. It consists of photosensitive chemicals and reacts to sunlight. This process is where the term 'blueprint' comes from. Today blueprints are made digitally and the process of cyanotype is a medium for making art.

Step 1

Ask yourself these two questions:
What do you want?
What do you need?

Step 2

What are the differences? What are the similarities? Are there any items/objects that you both 'want and 'need'?

Step 3

Make a collage on A4 paper of items you 'want' from magazines. Pay special attention to the

composition of your collage; try different arrangements before sticking them down on the paper.

Step 4

Put your collage into a plastic wallet and use a black marker pen to trace the outlines of it to create an abstract drawing.

Step 5 (outside or in the sunlight)

Take the collage out of the wallet, take the cyanotype paper out of the special 'dark bag' it's in and place it inside the plastic wallet. The moment the paper is exposed to sunlight it starts the process, so make sure you're quick!

Step 6

Hold everything really still! Make sure the sun is on it, expose for 3-6 minutes depending on how sunny it is.

Step 7

Keep the exposed cyanotype paper out of direct sunlight once you've exposed it. Run the cyanotype paper under water until the image disappears - this stops it exposing. Leave to dry and you're done!