

Cyanotypes & Anthotypes



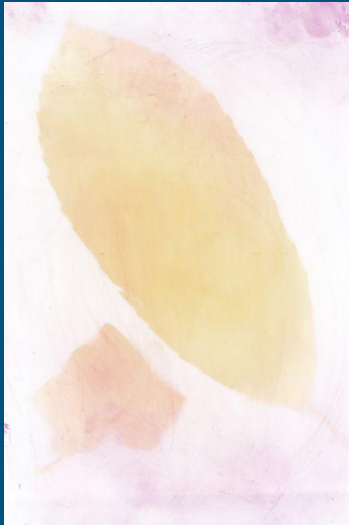
What is a cyanotype & what is it used for?

- A photographic process that involves two chemicals that you brush onto paper and expose to sunlight
- Was used as a way to produce copies of drawings, keep record of various plants (Anna Atkins), and now as a form of art-making or “alternative photography”

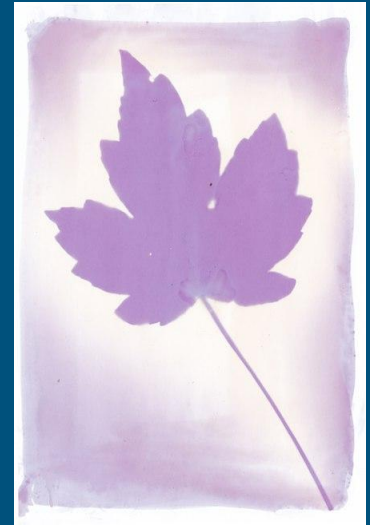


What is an anthotype? How does it differ from a cyanotype?

- A photographic process that is created using natural dye and juices from plants, fruits and vegetables mixed with alcohol
- Differs from the cyanotype process as it requires no chemicals



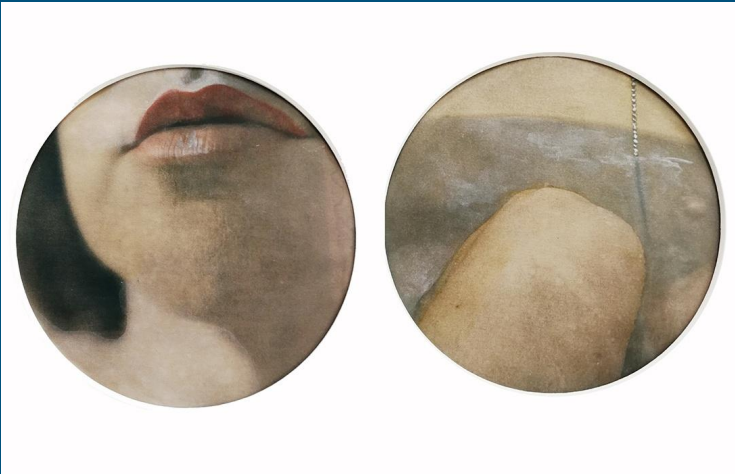
Ivy leaf anthotype
with beetroot juice



Maple leaf anthotype with
cherry juice

Various artists using the cyanotype process

Sophie Gotti uses the cyanotype process toned with tea bags and mixed media depicting her self-portraits.



Annie Lopez develops cyanotypes on tamale wrappers with images representing family memories.

Continued -



“Ask the River” Project - a community wide public art project empowering individuals to reconnect with the Connecticut River by creating a 25 foot long cyanotype silk banner

How do you make a cyanotype?



Collaborative Activity: Let's make our own!

- 1.) Split into either Team Cyanotype or Team Anthotype
- 2.) Grab a large sheet of watercolor paper and brush on the chemicals or the fruit/plant juices
- 3.) As a group, come up with an interesting layout/composition with yourselves, plants, different objects or materials
- 4.) Lay out in the sun until the paper is properly exposed and agitate in water
- 5.) Don't forget to dunk your print in water + hydrogen peroxide for a deeper color!



Tips and things to note:

- ★ Make sure to check the weather. Cloudy weather calls for a longer time to sit out in the sun.
- ★ Objects that are thin or transparent work better. Solid items will only show the outline and the shape.
- ★ Keep an eye out on your cyanotype to make sure it isn't getting overexposed.
- ★ Have fun with it!! Experiment with different materials, see what you can come up with.

