



Media. Arts. Education.

Aligned with the Common Core State Standards for ELA, our programs offer students and families hands-on ways to **integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media; gather relevant information from multiple digital sources; and make strategic use of digital media to express information.**

Technology and Media Arts

How to Make Sun Prints

The Art and Science of the Photographic Process

Creating sun prints with students is a wonderful and simple way to demonstrate what happens in the photographic process. With the advent of digital photography and decrease of film labs across the country, film is less prevalent than it once was.

But it is still essential to understand where the process is derived from, and sun prints do a great job of depicting it in an accessible way.

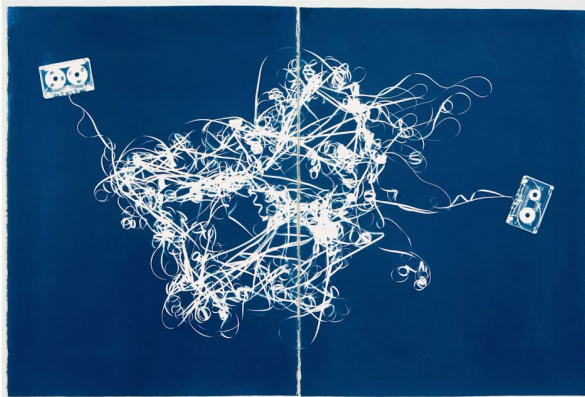
The word "photography" was created from the Greek roots (phōtos) meaning "light" and (graphé) meaning "representation by means of lines" or "drawing". Therefore, we can think of photography as "drawing with light"



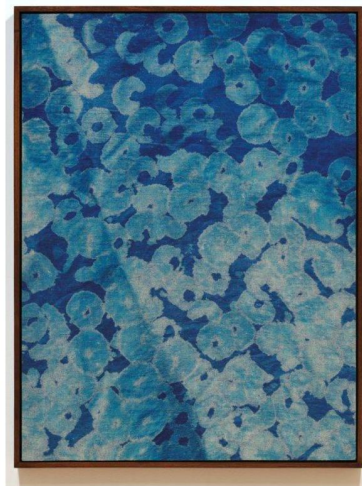
Cyanotype, also referred to as "blueprinting", is the oldest non-silver photographic printing process. It involves exposing materials, which have been treated with a solution of potassium ferricyanide and ferric ammonium citrate to a UV light source such as the sun.

[Anna Atkins](#) created a series of cyanotype limited-edition books that documented ferns and other plant life, placing specimens directly onto coated paper and allowing the action of light to create a silhouette effect.

Many artists continue to use the process in their work today.



Christian Marclay



Hugh Scott-Douglas

Materials Needed

- Sunprint paper
- acrylic sheet
- cardboard
- a tub full of water
- fun and interesting objects to print

The Process

Step 1

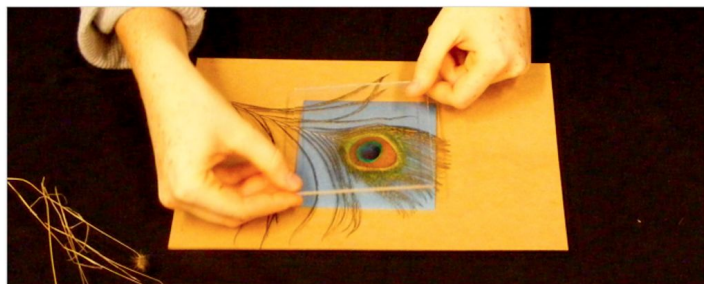
Find the objects you want to use for your sunprint and begin conceptualizing how you will arrange them onto your print. Do you want to aim for something that will be recognizable or abstract?



Step 2

Arrange in this order...

- Cardboard on bottom
- SunArt paper – blue side up
- Chosen items
- Acrylic Sheet



Step 3

Expose your print to sunlight until the paper turns light blue, about 1-5 minutes. Stay away from shadows!



Step 4

Rinse the paper in water in your tray for about a minute and leave it to dry overnight.



Resources:

[Sun Print paper on Amazon](#)

[The History of Photography in 5 minutes](#)

[Cyanotypes of British and Foreign Ferns - Getty Museum](#)

Happy Creating from Magic Box Productions!



