

CYANOTYPES

The Sun as an Art Medium

CYANOTYPES: AN OVERVIEW

- The cyanotype process, also known as the blue print process was invented by Sir John Herschel in 1842 and is still performed today by many darkroom enthusiasts.
- Cyanotypes are unique photographic prints created by placing objects on a photosensitive surface.
- Cyanotypes are much like a photograph, results in a silhouetted image varying in darkness based on the transparency of the object exposed to light.



CYANOTYPES: PROCESS

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



CYANOTYPES: PROCESS

- ❑ Negative or positive images can be obtained by blocking UV light from reaching the sensitized material.
 - Images can be produced by placing objects or transparencies upon paper treated with this solution and exposing to sunlight for 10 to 20 minutes.
 - The paper will retain the image of the objects after it has been rinsed with water.



CYANOTYPES: PROCESS

- Once the paper dries, parts that were exposed to the sun will turn a shade of Prussian Blue (ferric ferrocyanide) while parts that were covered by the object will remain white.
- The result is lighter-colored 'shadows' wherever you placed the masking objects. The color is deeper where the light from the sun was able to reach.



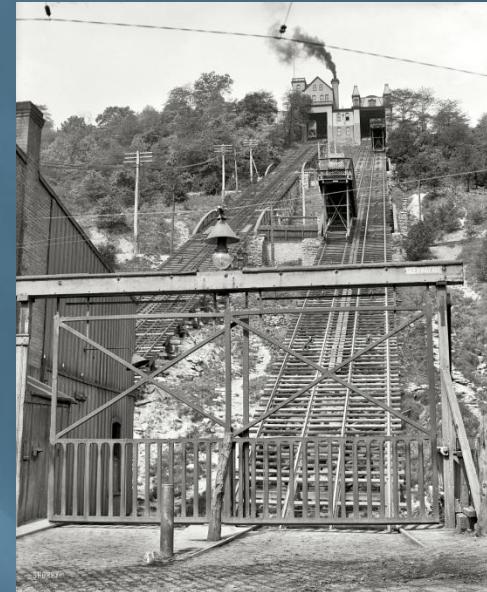
CYANOTYPES: THE IMAGES

- Research was conducted to find historic images of Cincinnati to be used as an appropriated source for the project.
- After images were found, positive and negative transparencies were created for exposure use.



CYANOTYPES: THE IMAGES

- ❑ Negatives were sandwiched together to create multiple exposure images that communicated energy and transition throughout our cities construction.
- ❑ The multiple exposure technique is intended to convey motion and change, similar to the Futurist style in Art History.



CYANOTYPES: THE IMAGES

- Cyanotype images were also created using objects on a treated fabric surface.
- The individual images were then assembled and made into banners now on display in the Butterfly courtyard.



