

TRURO CENTER



FOR THE ARTS

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Experiments with Cyanotype

Instructor: Tina Tryforos

Monday - Friday

July 29 - August 2

9am - 12pm

5 sessions

Open Studio: Mon - Thurs, 1pm - 4pm

Location: Edgewood Farm, 3 Edgewood Way, Truro

Cyanotype is a direct printing method. If you make a cyanotype of a flower, the shape of the flower will appear as the color of the paper where the flower blocked the light from hitting the paper. The area surrounding the flower will turn blue when it is exposed to UV light, and then developed in water. The final image of the flower will be the same size as the flower.

*You can use any object to make a cyanotype. Translucent objects (like plant matter or fabrics) are lovely because they vary in density and create an image with a variety of tones – but really, any object can be interesting. If you have large negatives, or other transparent images, you can try to print from them. We will make our own large format negatives from digital files. When making a cyanotype from a 3-dimensional object, keep in mind that the light will travel around the edges of the object if it doesn't lie flat on your paper.

You can make a cyanotype on a variety of surfaces. The material you are coating will need to be porous enough to absorb the cyanotype coating, and sturdy enough to wash in water. Very delicate and very smooth/slippery surfaces usually don't work well.

I will have some pre-coated papers for you to use on your first day or two.

Please bring some paper you like to experiment with. The outer Cape doesn't have many places to buy art supplies these days. **Castle Hill will have Rives BFK and Masa papers for sale at \$6 per large sheet.**

Materials for students to bring to class:

- Materials you may want to use as subject matter (*see notes above)
- A variety of papers and/or fabric that you will coat with cyanotype chemistry (**see notes below).
- A few photographs you have taken that we will use to make digital negatives.
- A few images of things you have previously made to share with our class on the first day. These can be original photos/objects, or digital versions of artwork. If digital, please email them to me at tinatryforos@gmail.com the weekend before our first class so I can have them ready to show.

****Some papers and fabrics that work well with cyanotype are listed here. You can also use maps, pages from books, re-purposed drawings, and matte surface photo paper to make cyanotypes... the possibilities are endless. Some things may not work, but it will be fun trying.**

Papers: These are papers I have tested with good results and can be purchased online or at art supply stores:

Stonehenge

Rives BFK (comes in various colors)

Somerset

Lenox

Canson Mi-teintes paper (various colors)

Strathmore Bristol – I will have some of this on hand. (Vellum or Smooth)

Certain rice, mulberry and bamboo papers work well, but some can be very fragile when wet, making the paper hard to handle. If you have paper that you are unsure about, but would like to try, bring it and we can do a test. I will have a few rice/mulberry/bamboo papers to share.

Cotton and silk fabrics

Fabric is an interesting material for cyanotype prints. If you want to experiment with a cyanotype on fabric, I will have a small amount of cotton to share. Feel free to bring pieces of your own. Natural fabrics work best. The finer the weave, the sharper the image will be.

Digital negatives

We will make digital negatives in class to print as cyanotypes. Please assemble a few interesting images that you might like to translate into a cyanotype. These images can be photos, digital photos (including cell phone pix), or drawings. Again, the options are endless.

Finally, cyanotype chemistry can stain clothing if you aren't careful, so please dress accordingly.

I look forward to meeting you all.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions – tinatryforos@gmail.com

We are sorry but you cannot put contaminated liquids down the drains or dump any materials on Castle Hill premises. All cleaning products and contaminated liquid - paint water, solvents, etc. - need to go home with you.