Alternative Processes

There are many alternative photography processes including: cyanotype, Van Dyke Brown, anthotypes, chlorophyll prints, gum prints, wet collodion and more. Alternative implies that something other than a camera and enlarger are being used to make a print. These processes are often very old and historic harkening back to the origins of photography.

Featured in this presentation: Cyanotype, Anthotypes and Chlorophyll Prints
Cyanotype Processes

**Photogram**- lay objects down onto prepared paper/fabric and sandwich into contact frame, expose through them creating a shadow-style print. This was made by Anna Atkins as part of her 1843 book, Photographs of British Algae: Cyanotype Impressions

**Negative**- create a negative using Photoshop and Digital Inkjet/Laser Transparencies, sandwich them in contact frame layering paper/fabric and negative, expose and produce a blue-toned print. Use Adobe Photoshop to create your digital negative. Remember that the cyanotype process tends to increase the contrast slightly and drops out the mid-tones. Use levels to adjust your image.

Supplies needed for Cyanotype Process

- Red Lights (darkroom style), can buy portable ones that simply plug in, you can purchase replacement bulbs for these
- Darkroom- any room can become a darkroom with heavy duty plastic garbage bags
- Contact frame, can make this with plexi-glass and binder clips or purchase fancy ones
- Cyanotype pre-coated papers/fabrics or purchase the chemistry and coat your own.
- Water tray to develop print
- Optional purchase- UV lightbox (allows you to print indoors on non-sunny days) can use for silkscreen too

Resources About Cyanotype

http://www.alternativephotography.com/wp/processes/cyanotype/cyanotype-classic-process


http://petapixel.com/?s=cyanotype
Anthotypes Processes

1. Make the emulsion by mashing or blending the natural materials from your garden (berries, vegetables or plant leaves). If the plant mix is too dry you can dilute it with water, oil or alcohol. See link for details on this.

2. Strain the mashed pulp through a cheesecloth or coffee filter. Make sure you get all the liquid.

3. Paint the liquid onto the surface of paper or fabric.

4. Place negative, positive or actual objects on when dry.

5. Expose to UV light. Bleaching may occur in 10 minutes or take several days or weeks depending on the natural materials used, the time of the year, sunlight etc.

6. No rinsing or fixing is necessary. They are fragile though and light sensitive, so protect from light if displayed.

Resources About Anthotypes & Chlorophyll


http://www.alternativephotography.com/wp/processes/anthotypes/anthotypes-making-print-using-plants


http://www.lulu.com/spotlight/alternativephoto


Where to Buy Supplies for Alternative Processes

http://www.freestylephoto.biz/alternative-process/cyanotype


http://www.jacquardproducts.com/cyanotype.html

http://www.blueprintsonfabric.com