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| **Lesson Title Arts Area** | Cyanotype Prints |
| **School/Grade Level** | High School/ Photography 1 |
| **Lesson Writer** | Jen Pierce |
| **Statement about the writer,**  **Long Range Plans, and**  **Lesson Development** | Jen Pierce has been an Art Educator for 10 years in Horry County Schools. She has her MAT in Art Education and she is a NBCT.  She will continue to emphasize the importance of composition and the elements and principles of design in her lessons.  This lesson is designed for entry level photography students ready to try alternative processes and progress their skills with composition. |
| **Unit Description** | The student will create a cyanotype print. He/she will learn about opaque, translucent, and refracting objects, along with the elements and principles of design: Balance (symmetry), shape, space (positive & negative) and emphasis. |
| **Enduring Understanding** | This lesson continues to build on major composition ideas that are incorporated in all mediums of art. The student is still learning the importance of planning the composition by focusing on space (positive & negative), emphasis, and balancing shapes (arrangements of objects in the cyanotype). |
| **Essential Question** | How do the choices you make in creating a composition effect the success of your artwork? |
| **2010 SC Academic Standards for the Visual and Performing Arts Implemented** | **II. Using knowledge of structures and functions such as elements and principles of design:**  Students will  A. Identify and describe the interrelationships among the elements and principles of design that communicate a variety of artistic perspectives and purposes. (obj. 1,2)  **V. Reflecting upon and assessing the merits of their work and the work of others:**  Students will  B. Make complex, descriptive, interpretive, and evaluative judgments about their artworks and the artworks of others. (obj. 3) |
| **Instructional Objectives** | 1. The student will draw out a preliminary sketch that focuses on composition (primarily balance (symmetry), shape, space, and emphasis).  (SC: II.A) *Assessment: Planning worksheet*    2. The students will create a cyanotype print.  (SC: II.A)  *Assessment: Rubric*    3. The student will critique the final artwork.  (SC: V.B) *Assessment: Rubric, Critique worksheet* |
| **Description of Instruction** | The student will create a cyanotype print after reviewing the historical context of them and expanding their knowledge of composition. The lesson is completed with a critique of the students work. |
| **Teacher Procedures** | The teacher will…   1. Pre-assess 2. Go over the history of cyanotypes/blue prints 3. Go over the hand-out on composition 4. Allow students time to collect their objects from nature or create silhouette cut outs to use. 5. Had out rubric and review criteria 6. Have the students complete the preliminary sketch worksheet 7. Review procedures 8. Allow students time to print and develop their cyanotype prints 9. Facilitate the critique using the worksheet 10. Offer ideas for moving forward into expanding this project into a mixed media composition (Artist Diane Taylor can be referenced) |
| **Student Tasks** | 1. The student will answer some pre-assessment on cyanotypes and composition. 2. The student will review earlier work with cyanotypes and sun prints. 3. The student will review composition using the elements and principles of design. 4. The student will collect opaque and translucent objects for their piece. 5. The student will design a composition for their cyanotype print using a sketch worksheet. 6. The student creates their cyanotype (prints, develops, and dries) 7. The student critiques their work and the work of their peers using a critique worksheet. |
| **Assessment** | A planning worksheet to help the student plan their composition.  A rubric to assess student achievement.  Comprehension of composition and application of the aesthetic values of cyanotypes will be assessed through the critique (worksheet). |
| **Materials** | * 100% cotton fabric * 200g Ferric ammonium citrate * 80g Potassium ferricynide * Large bucket * Water * Light tight container for transporting treated fabric * Lots of objects to use in your print! |
| **Resources** | <http://www.velvetmothstudio.com/>  <http://velvetmothstudio.blogspot.com/search/label/cyanotype>  James, C. The Book of Alternative Photographic Processes. Delmar. NY: 2002 |
| **Attachments** | -Planning worksheet  -Rubric  -Critique questions  -Chemical prep sheet for teachers  -Background instructional context |
| **Curriculum**  **Connections, Common Core, and Content Area Standard** | 1. Science connections (how light works and the chemicals react) 2. Dance: dealing with shapes and form 3. Music |

Notes:

**Background Instructional Context:**

A cyanotype print is simply a photograph that reacts with ferric ammonium citrate and potassium ferricyanide. Because of the chemicals the print will take on a bluish shade, and it creates some crazy effects. We will be using this process and creating giant pictograms on large sheets of fabric. (A pictogram is when you cover parts of your print with objects like people, bikes, anything, and allow the print to be exposed. The objects will not allow some light to come through and you are left with the silhouette of those objects.) To begin with, demonstrate the process on a smaller scale with a few assistants. The importance of the timing, the developing process, and the fresh water needed to continue the developing should be stressed.

**Teacher Preparation for Chemicals**

(All information can be found in more detail in Christopher James book, “TheBook of Alternative Photographic Processes” Page 129.)

First you need to purchase the two chemicals needed; ferric ammonium citrate and potassium ferricyanide. For one full size sheet you will need 200g of ferric ammonium citrate, and 80g of potassium ferricyanide.

YOU DO NOT MIX THESE TOGETHER AT FIRST!

First you make two separate stocks.

Ferric ammonium citrate (200g) mixed with 1000ml distilled water. STOCK A

Potassium ferricyanide (80g) mixed with 1000ml distilled water. STOCK B

Put your separate stocks in separate opaque storage containers, and let them sit for 24 hours.

Best Place to order that I have found:

[www.photoformulary.com](http://www.photoformulary.com/)

Ferric Ammonium Citrate 1lb. Item number 10-0500 $38.00  
 Potassium Ferricynade 1lb. Item number 10-1010 $17.95

The next step is to coat your fabric with the solution. This should be done in a room with little light. Okay, now you mix your stocks together in a large Rubbermaid kind of container. Then soak your sheet in it until it is fully saturated.

Now you need to hang your fabric somewhere dark to dry. Don’t let light touch it because is it now basically a giant sheet of photo paper, i.e.-light sensitive! Give it a solid day to dry.

Once your fabric is totally dry, put it in a black trash bag, then in a Rubbermaid to transport it to your printing sight. Remember that the sheet is now light sensitive and any water that touches it will start the developing process. This means keep it dry and away from light!!!!

Now you’re ready to print: Refer back to the directions under the Procedure part of this lesson. Good luck and send me photos of your cyanotypes: [Jenpierce83@gmail.com](mailto:Jenpierce83@gmail.com)