

CYANOTYPE ON PAPER, TIMBER AND UNPRIMED CANVAS

Cyanotype is an antique photographic printing process distinctive for producing Prussian Blue monochromatic prints.

Cyanotype is a remarkably simple process that employs two inexpensive chemicals and sunlight.

Prints can be made on any natural fibre: paper, cotton, silk, wool, wood etc

Cyanotype solution comes premeasured in lightproof black bottles. Fill each bottle with water to create Stock Solutions A & B. Shake until powder is fully dissolved. For best results wait 24 hours before using stock. Stock solution has a long shelf life.

In subdued lighting mix equal parts of Solution A and Solution B to create the cyanotype sensitizer. Mix only the amount you immediately need as the sensitizer is stable just 2-4 hours.

Coat canvas, timber or paper with the sensitizer and let dry in the dark.

Under subdued lighting place the canvas on a piece of board so it can be carried out to the sunlight.

Place anything that casts a shadow onto the canvas eg. Leaves, stencils, negatives, paper cut-outs etc

Place a piece of glass or Perspex over the objects to secure.

Expose in sunlight for 15 to 30 minutes. The canvas will look bronze in colour once fully exposed.

Remove objects from canvas and wash in cool water for 5 minutes. The canvas will turn blue.

Air dry. After 24 hours the print will oxidise to its final deep blue colour.

Cyanotype prints are archival.

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