



### presentation of the work

required age:  
starting from 9-  
10 years

#### educational interest:

- Students learn about cyanotype, its beginning, who invented it and why it was mostly used in those days.
- They learn about Anna Atkins (16 March 1799 – 9 June 1871), an English botanist and photographer who used cyanotype a lot.
- They learn that cyanotype is still used as an artistic way of expression by numerous artists.

#### encounter with the work:

- Students learn about cyanotype: what it is, how it is made.
- It was discovered by The English scientist and astronomer Sir John Herschel in 1842.
- He mainly used it for reproducing notes and diagrams, as in blueprints.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CyanotypeXSAbLXSwwKHXnsBmYQ\\_AUIB&biw=1024&bih=613#hl=s&tbm=isch&q=cyanotipija+\\*&imgsrc=OzV-qP52F6KtSM:&spf=572](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CyanotypeXSAbLXSwwKHXnsBmYQ_AUIB&biw=1024&bih=613#hl=s&tbm=isch&q=cyanotipija+*&imgsrc=OzV-qP52F6KtSM:&spf=572)

#### work's analysis

Presentation of **Anna Atkins** who created a series of cyanotype limited-edition books that documented ferns and other plant life from her extensive seaweed collection. They get acquainted with numerous contemporary artists who employ the cyanotype process in their art: Christian Marclay, Marco Breuer, Kate Cordsen, Hugh Scott-Douglas and WuChi-Tsung.

# Creative process

## pedagogical organization

- ↪ Students learn about cyanotype, its beginning, who invented it and why it was mostly used in those days.
- ↪ They see a picture of an architectural drawing blueprint, to imagine how the first cyanotype looked like.
- ↪ They learn about Anna Atkins (16 March 1799 – 9 June 1871), an English botanist and photographer who used cyanotype a lot and see some of her work.
- ↪ They get acquainted with numerous contemporary artists who employ the cyanotype process in their art: Christian Marclay, Marco Breuer, Kate Cordsen, Hugh Scott-Douglas and WuChi-Tsung and see some of their work.
- ↪ They learn how to make their own cyanotype using treated paper (by two chemicals: ammonium iron citrate and potassium ferricyanide),
- ↪ They design their own Christmas cards by making an image using natural materials (branches, fern, leaves, grass...).
- ↪ They make the image on the treated paper and expose it to the strong light for couple of minutes
- ↪ They put the paper into the water for the image to become clearly seen and then dry the paper.
- ↪ They make a Christmas card.

## Duration

- ↪ Observation, conversation, presentation of artistic problem 20 min
- ↪ Making the work of art 60 min
- ↪ Analysis of works of art 10 min
- ↪ Placement of the exhibition of the works 15 min

## implemented resources / materials (per student)

- clear acrylic sheet (can be shared)
- cardboard surfaces
- a small piece of treated paper for cyanotype (10 x 8 cm)
- natural materials (branches, leaves, grass, fern...)
- scissors, glue
- three containers of water per class
- OHP projector (better two) in case there is no sun

## learning objectives

- ↪ Students learn about cyanotype, its beginning, who invented it and why it was mostly used in those days.
- ↪ They learn about Anna Atkins (16 March 1799 – 9 June 1871), an English botanist and photographer who used cyanotype a lot.
- ↪ They learn that cyanotype is still used as an artistic way of expression by numerous artists.
- ↪ They learn how to make their own cyanotype.
- ↪ They create an image by using natural materials.
- ↪ They make their own cyanotype pictures.
- ↪ They use these pictures to make a Christmas card.
- ↪ They know how to use the material and develop their motor skills.
- ↪ They learn about composition.

## progress

- students tasks

- Students by PPT learn about cyanotype, its beginning, who invented it and why it was mostly used in those days.
- They learn about Anna Atkins (16 March 1799 – 9 June 1871), an English botanist and photographer who used cyanotype.
- They learn that cyanotype is still used as an artistic way of expression by numerous artists and see their work.
- They make their own cyanotype pictures by using natural materials.
- They use the material and develop their motor skills.
- They think about choosing proper materials.
- They think about balanced compositions.
- They use these pictures to make unique Christmas cards.

- instructions

- Select natural materials you will use.
- First try to make a motif for a Christmas card on your desk.
- Put the sun print paper on the piece of cardboard.
- Choose a motif and put it on the blue side of the sun print paper.
- Cover the motif with the clear acrylic sheet.
- Put everything on the OHP projector with the acrylic sheet down (the blue side of the sun print paper down).
- Expose it to the strong light for about 10 min (if it is sun light 1-5 min).
- Quickly rinse the sun print with water for about 1 min.
- Put it on a flat surface (on a newspaper) and dry flat.
- When dry, glue your sun print motifs on a card.

### teacher's role

- Explains about the cyanotype.
- Shows works of different artists.
- Explains that we are going to make a Christmas card by using cyanotype.
- Advises children what kind of material to choose, how to make a good composition.
- Advises about the size of composition.
- Guides the work and gives advice.
- Helps with the exposing of the paper to the light.
- Using questions he guides the evaluation of works.

# Implementation steps

1



Students try to make different motifs.

2



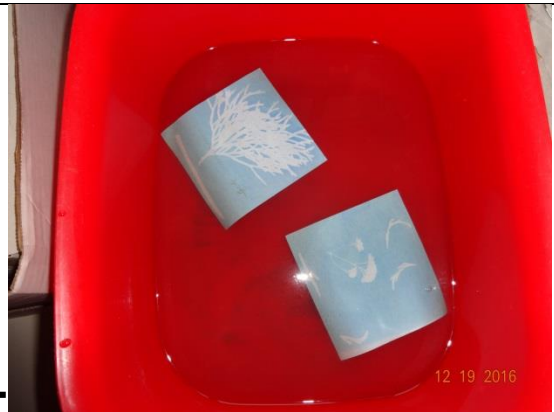
They put the motif on the sun print paper.

3



They expose the treated paper to the light of OHP projector (5-10min). Strong sunlight (1-5 min).

4



Submerge the paper in a container of water for about one minute.

5



Lay the wet prints flat to dry.

6



Making Christmas cards.