

## COJO 040 – Cyanotypes – Historical Photographic Process

Instructor: J. Jason Lazarus, Adjunct Lecturer

Class lecture/lab 1-6p January 4-5, 2020, 106 Bunnell

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### COURSE PURPOSE

This course will expose students to a little-known photographic technique that was popular during the 1840s and throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century as blueprint technology – the Cyanotype printing process. This incredibly easy-to-learn and enjoyable photoprocess can be replicated in nearly any environment without the need for a traditional darkroom or any experience with photography – film or digital. Students will utilize pre-existing personal images (film or digital) printed on transparency film to create handmade photographs made with the power of the sun, a few cheap chemicals and traditional watercolor paper. Acting as a bridge between digital and traditional darkroom techniques, this course will expose practitioners of either photographic path to a blended working method by introducing the element of the “hand” into digital creation and eliminating the necessity of film or darkroom experience in a “darkroom-like” process. This course is geared for either the tenured or novice photographer and aims to provide a creative way to distinguish their work from others.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will begin this intensive 8-hour course exploring the historical roots of photography as they’re visually familiarized with multiple early photographic techniques and their famous practitioners. We will focus on the technological leaps that led to the first permanent photograph and how those early advances led to the Prussian Blue process of Cyanotype.

After a photographic lineage is established, students will receive instruction on how to create their own “digital negatives”, a process that allows students to utilize digital files with analog processes. Following this discussion, students will learn how to:

- Safely mix photo-reactive chemicals
- Coat regular watercolor paper with chemistry, turning it light-reactive
- Use a contact-printing frame with their digital negatives to create a print
- Effectively and safely process their exposed print to make a permanent image

Our first day will focus on procedure – mostly – working out any procedural or individual issues students may have with the process. The second day, however, we’ll spend the most of the day exploring what we learned from the first – printing your own digital negatives, working individually on coating, exposing and processing your prints in a moderated lab session.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES:

By the end of this weekend focus course, students should be able to:

- Understand the history surrounding Cyanotype as a photographic process, name some of its most well-known practitioners and understand its historical significance
- Make basic digital negatives on their own for use in any number of photographic printing-out processes
- Make their own unique, handmade images with pre-existing imagery, adding creativity and a unique signature to their work
- Understand necessary safety precautions surrounding Cyanotype but also be comfortable enough with it to do it safely at home
- Coat paper, mix chemistry, expose and process Cyanotype prints

## COST

All supplies for the course will be supplied for you at no additional cost. This course is completely supported by a \$125 fee for the 2-day workshop.

## COURSE SCHEDULE:

(There will be a break after 2 hours)

January 4:

- 1-1:30p – Class introductions, history lesson on Cyanotype
- 1:30-3p – Coating, Exposure and Processing Demonstration
- 3-5:30 – Creation of Photogram Cyanotypes – Bring your own materials from home!
- 5:30-6p – Review, Q&A and digital file drop-off for instructor

January 14:

- 1p-2:30 p – Review material; Digital Negative creation demonstration with Photoshop, Scanning demo for film
- 2:30p-5:30p – Demo ends, students use pre-made digital negatives to create their own prints, Open, Moderated Lab. Help where needed.
- 5:30-6p – Group Critique, Discussion on where to go next, Goodbyes.

## GRADING

This course is non-graded.

## MISCELLANEOUS

*If you have any additional needs for this class, please do not hesitate to talk with me. I urge all students with hidden health / personal concerns to discuss any matters at all that may impact their performance in class with me within the first week of class. Students with additional need for learning tools may also see me as a resource – I want to make sure we all learn this exciting topic and have all the tools necessary to do so! All discussions between faculty and students are considered confidential.*

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- 1) You may confidentially disclose and access confidential counseling by contacting the UAF Health & Counseling Center at 474-7043*
- 2) You may access support and file a Title IX report by contacting the UAF Title IX Coordinator at 474-7599*
- 3) You may file a criminal complaint by contacting the University Police Department at 474-7721*

*From Disability Services:*

*UAF is obligated to provide accommodation only to the known limitations of an otherwise qualified student who has a disability. Please identify yourself to UAF Disability Services by applying for accommodations. To be considered for UAF Disability Services accommodations individuals must be enrolled for at least one credit as a UAF student. For more information send Disability Services an e-mail at [uaf-disabilityservices@alaska.edu](mailto:uaf-disabilityservices@alaska.edu) by phone at (907)474-5655, or by TTY at (907)474-1827.*

*In the field of print and electronic journalism, accuracy and clarity are essential. The ability to communicate information clearly and correctly is the cornerstone of effective communication. High ethical standards are essential for maintaining credibility. Every course taught in the UAF Department of Communications and Journalism seeks to maintain these standards, starting with an emphasis on producing original and factual work.*