

Welcome



Cyanotypes: Photography with the Sun

G25040505

with Carol Shrader

April 27-May 3, 2025

Hello artists!

Welcome to gorgeous Ghost Ranch and the Cyanotypes: Photography with the Sun workshop. I'm looking forward to meeting with you and sharing creativity for our cyanotype week. Cyanotypes are one of the earliest forms of photography, and they offer an opportunity for a unique creative dance with nature, perfectly suited for our time at Ghost Ranch.

Cyanotypes can become a way of marking time and place. We will walk the box canyon trail to take photographs, make sketches and collect natural materials to use in our cyanotypes. Using these materials we will create our cyanotypes on paper or fabric. Time can be measured by the length of sun exposure, and even slight adjustments within that time frame, the time of day, or a daily repetition of prints. We will essentially be making an imprint of the impression that the natural environment of Northern New Mexico makes on you.

Cyanotypes offer an opportunity to let go of control and be surprised by the variations and effects that are achieved with natural exposure to sunlight. Think of this medium as a form of collage. We will be working with contact prints of physical objects as well as hand-drawn transparencies and photo negatives printed on transparency sheets. No two prints will turn out alike, even using the same materials and negatives.

On Monday we will explore the history and world of cyanotype art, walk the canyon to gather materials and inspiration, and meet again that evening to prepare our paper and fabric with emulsion. Tuesday morning we will brainstorm ideas and compositions and start making prints with the afternoon sun. Wednesday and Thursday we will continue our explorations of Ghost Ranch and the cyanotype processes, adding in transparencies, altered photo negatives, toning, and other wet media such as ink and dyes. After the cyanotypes dry we will have the opportunity to work back into them with various media, collage, and even sewing. On Friday we will photograph our finished art and have our own final art exhibition and discussion.

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Most of the cyanotype materials will be supplied for you. But be sure to bring something to take photos with and a laptop or other device to manipulate photos into negatives. Bring a sketchbook and any personal art media that you would enjoy using with the cyanotypes. You are also welcome to bring prior photos that you would like to use, sketches or other personal artwork images, or materials from home that have special meaning or interesting design. Of course, also pack hiking boots and clothing for being out in the weather. And bring your creative, playful, curious and intuitive self.

I look forward to a meaningful creative and place-based journey with you!

Carol Schrader

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