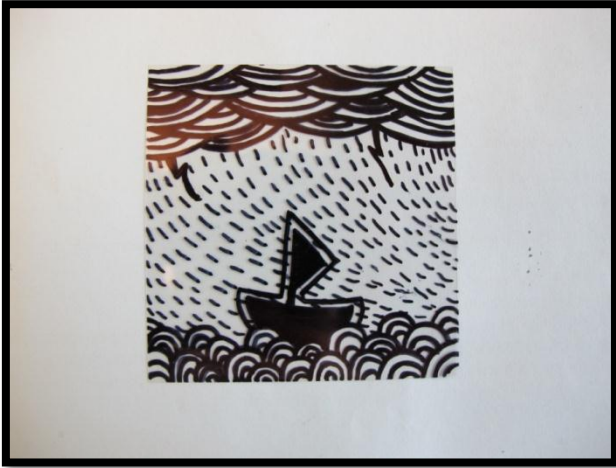


Cyanotype Reflection

Anna Short



Cyanotypes were created by Sir John Hershal in 1842 after he discovered photosensitivity in ferric salts. It was used as a method of photography for a while, but today it is mostly used for making blueprints, although some artists still use it in their artwork.



To make a cyanotype first a piece of paper is coated in bBerlin green, a mixture of ferric salts and ferricyanide. Next the paper with its overlaying stencil is exposed to light which reduces part of the ferric salt to a ferrous state and part of the ferricyanide to ferrocyanide, which causes a pale blue pigment to appear. After some time and oxidation has passed that pigment turns into Prussian blue, or ferric ferrocyanide.

For this project I knew that I could have more details than in some of the other projects so I drew something that had a few different parts to it. This particular image was done under the ultraviolet light, as opposed to the 100 w light bulb, and turned out much clearer and with a darker Prussian blue than my light bulb cyanotype.