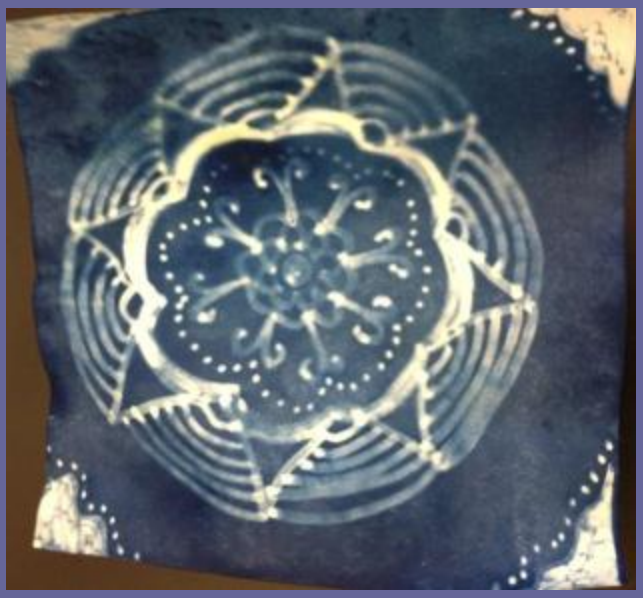
CYANOTYPE



For this lab, we combined ferric salts and ferricyanide (Berlin green) and applied it to small squares of white paper. Next, we exposed the Berlin green-coated paper to UV light while putting a print filter over the top of the paper. The exposure to the light reduces a portion of the ferric salt to the ferrous state, and a portion of the ferricyanide to ferrocyanide, resulting in the formation of a pale blue pigment consisting of ferrous ferrocyanide. The longer the paper was exposed to light, the more the pigments reacted to form a ferric ferrocyanide salt (Prussian blue). This Prussian blue fills in the space that was exposed in the printed film, creating a negative of the original. This process is called cyanotype and was discovered by John Herschel in 1842 and later brought to photography by Anna Atkins.

This lab allowed me to express myself creatively through the artistic medium of photography. I was able to choose a geometric design that looked aesthetically pleasing to me and apply it in this lab. I was also able to demonstrate my understanding of an artistic tradition by grasping how photography has developed and changed over the centuries and how cyanotype has been used and is still used today.

Cyanotype has been used in the past, but is most known today for its use in blueprints. Due to the inability to create colors other than blue, including shades of grey, cyanotype has been very effective in creating blueprints because blueprints are architectural designs made up of lines.

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