Seeing Art-Making in a New Light: Cyanotype Printing

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Overview

What do an artist and a chemist have in common?

Albert Einstein said, "The greatest scientists are artists as well."

In this curriculum unit students explored a historical printmaking technique that was discovered by Sir John Herschel (1792-1871) in 1842, three years after the invention of photography. High school students were able to explain that cyanotype is an inexpensive method of reproducing photographs and other documents. Some examples included maps and architectural plans, also known as, “blue prints”. Student explained how exposure of the chemically-treated, light-sensitive paper to direct sunlight connected art, chemistry, and the cyanotype photographic process.

In

Goals

Students will:

- Understand that art is more than just a source of enjoyment, but also a skill that can advance their professional endeavors.
- Understand the history and process of cyanotype printing.
- Apply the elements of art/principles of design when executing basic photographic skills.
- Understand the chemical formula used to make paper become light sensitive.

Applications

Outcomes

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