

Anthotype Photography

Invented by Sir John Herschel in 1842, An Anthotype is an image made using photosensitive or light sensitive material found in plants.

The dried emulsion coating the paper will slowly be bleached out by the sun's rays if it is not covered with an object that protects it from the light.

Materials:

strong coloured petals or leaves or fruit or veg
pestle and mortar/blender/masher
fine sieve
sponge or brush
watercolour paper
sheet of glass/ transparent plastic
weight such as 2 x stones to hold it all down
items with a strong silhouette to place on light sensitive paper

Instructions to make an Anthotype:

1. Squeeze the juice out of plant materials such as berries, leaves, fruit.

2. Use a sieve or cloth to remove any bits of pulp.

3. Use a brush or a sponge to coat the paper watercolour is preferable, but cartridge paper is fine too. leave to dry in a dark place.

4. When dry, arrange objects with a strong outline eg. leaves, flowers, man made objects with interesting shapes and if possible,

5. Cover with glass or perspex and weigh down so that the items on top of the anthotype paper will not move for a few days. I have found putting this in the greenhouse works with unpredictable weather. Leave to expose in the sun for a few days or until you begin to see the effect of the sun bleaching any exposed paper.

