

DESERT INSTITUTE

Spring Session

2022

at Joshua Tree National Park

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Cyanotype Workshop

Information

Date/ Time: Saturday, April 2, 2022, 10 am - 1 pm

Meet at: [Desert Rose Studio](#) (click on the link for a map to the meeting site) 61884 Commercial St., Joshua Tree

Instructor: Rose Cefalu, Photographer, Alternative Process Artist, Instructor

Overview

Join Joshua Tree based photographer & artist Rose Cefalu for ½ day of experimental printmaking, known as Cyanotype printing. You will learn about the history of the process along with hands on work producing fine art prints. Your images will be enlarged to 8 x 10 negatives and will be contacted printed, harnessing the Sun's UV light and developed in water. You will also do the same process as a photogram, where the image is made without a camera by placing objects directly onto the surface of the light-sensitive cyanotype paper and then exposing it to light. The usual result is a negative shadow image that shows variations in tone that depends upon the transparency of the objects used. Sharing her wealth of knowledge, Rose will start each morning with a brief overview of the process followed by paper coating and a walk in a private location in search of the objects and plant flora students can use in later in the day for photograms. Students will explore the power of image making using this 20th century photograph technique in conventional and unconventional ways. No prior photography experience is needed, all levels welcome.

Itinerary

Prep work before class:

- Find 3-4 images that would work well as black and white images.
- High contrast usually work best, landscapes, abstracts, flowers, even people and pets work great. They can be from your camera or phone just send the largest size possible one at a time via email to rcefalu@mac.com and I will make enlarged negatives before we meet. If none of this makes sense no worries, it will all come together when we meet.
- Please bring comfortable clothing and shoes
- Hat and Sun screen at your discretion
- Lunch/snack break, **bring your own food and water**
- The class is 50 % indoors 50% outdoors, please be prepared to wear a mask indoors.

Cyanotype day structure

- Brief overview of the process
- Coat paper with Cyanotype solution (drying time 1-2 hours)
- Nature walk where we collect (small samples of flora for photograms)
- Brunch break
- Exposing test strip to find the correct exposure
- Printing begins
- Brief demo on photograms
- Continue printing

Optional Supplies

Note book, pencil, eraser, artist masking tape or painters tape, watercolors for experimentation

Fitness Requirements

Participants must be in good physical condition for courses/activities in a desert that may be hot, dry, windy, and sometimes surprisingly cold.

Guidelines

- You are responsible for your safety.
- Park your car in designated areas only. Rattlesnakes are present in the desert. Avoid contact with wildlife. Put your hands and feet only where you can see them.
- Stay with the group. If you get lost, stay put.
- Drink plenty of water. If you run out, notify the instructor or the Desert Institute Representative.
- Before leaving the class, check out with the Desert Institute Representative.

Instructor Biography

Every day you can find Rose Cefalu obsessing over her iPhone photos and over-posting on Instagram @joshuatreedesertrose and @rosecefaluphoto. In her spare time she thinks about traveling, taking photos, printing imagery, and mixing new colors. In 2019 Rose launched a cyanotype workshop to get her "hands dirty" again and reintroduce this vintage art form to a new audience interested in becoming skilled with alternative photographic processes. Rose has been a guest lecturer worldwide along with 12 years as adjunct faculty at the Art Institute of California at both Hollywood and Los Angeles campuses. She is also producing award-winning content at a variety of outlets. Currently Rose is the Photography Director at Emmy magazine and you can find her personal work at rosecefaluphoto.com. Her work is on display throughout various galleries and stores in the high desert. She is also a yearly participant of MBCAC's Art Tours where she opens her studio and home.

* The Desert Institute staff/instructors will attempt to accommodate participant's needs; however we reserve the right to deny a student participation in the course due to concerns regarding health and safety issues.