

CORNERSTONE 2018 RESOURCE

Writing the World in 36 Words *Specialty Track 3*

AUTHOR(S):	Daniel Abramson
SUMMARY:	In this session, participants will create short poems and print them onto paper using the sun's energy. Participants will learn how to make their own photo-sensitive paper and how to use it to create different kinds of sunprints. - <i>Submitted by Daniel Abramson</i>
TOPIC(S):	Visual Arts, Identity
LEARNING OBJECTIVE:	Participants will learn how to create and use cyanotype (sunprint) paper. Participants will explore the power of creative self-expression through poetry.
AUDIENCE:	The visual art component is accessible for any aged camper. Young kids find the sunprints magical. The poetry component can be modified to suit all ages, but this version is suited to tweens and teens.
TIMING:	90 minutes
APPENDICES:	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tzadikim_Nistarim https://www.diyphotography.net/make-your-own-photogram-cyanotype/
MATERIALS NEEDED:	Watercolor Paper 25 grams of Ferric ammonium citrate (green) 10 grams of Potassium ferricyanide Water (distilled if possible) Scale or measuring spoons Sponge brushes Art paper or fabric for coating 9x12 Plexiglas sheets Chemicals are inexpensive and relatively easy to find online for under \$100.
SET-UP DETAILS:	Art room or other indoor space with access to a sink

Remember that there is meaning beyond absurdity. Know that every deed counts, that every word is power...Above all, remember that you must build your life as if it were a work of art.
Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

SESSION TIMELINE & OUTLINE:

PREPARING THE ART MATERIALS

2 days before the program:

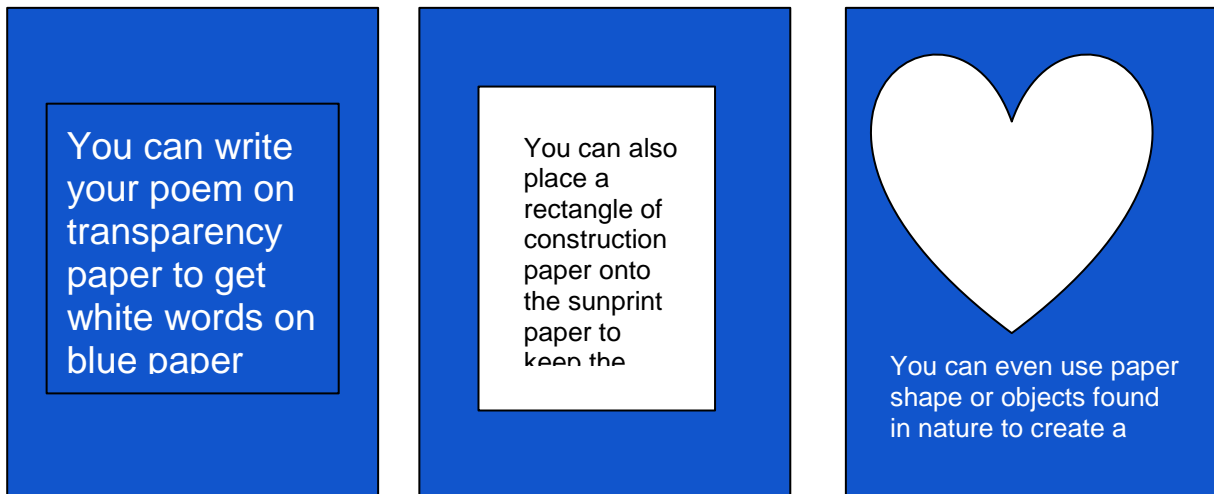
The cyanotype chemistry needs to be prepared ahead of time, and the watercolor paper needs to be coated with the solution and given time to dry for about a day before the program. There are many great resources on the web to show you how to mix the chemistry, coat the paper, and create a sun print.

CONTEXT

"There is an idea that there are 36 people in the world in any generation whose righteousness sustains the whole world. The Hebrew letters for the number 36 are "Lamed" and "Vav". These imagined 36 special individuals are said to be anonymous and hidden in plain view. Today we are taking inspiration from that idea and we will write poetry using only 36 words to tell our stories"

Drafting a poem

Participants will write a 36-word poem that will be transferred onto the sunprint paper. Participants should spend 5 minutes thinking about some of the words, and jotting ideas that they wish to include on scrap paper.



PREPARING YOUR SUNPRINT - (DO THIS INDOORS AWAY FROM STRONG SUNLIGHT)

Participants can write their poems onto transparency paper and gather objects to place on the prepared sunprint paper. Any parts of the paper that are covered by words on the transparency or by other objects that block the sunlight will leave white outlines on the page.

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When everything has been arranged on the paper, cover your work with a Plexiglas sheet to keep everything from moving when you bring it outside. Gently bring the paper outside and set them in the sun to expose. On a sunny day they should be ready in about 3 minutes, when it is overcast it can take 10 minutes or more. Watch to see when the paper turns green, then brownish or grey. Once it appears grey or dusty brown, bring the paper inside. Remove the items from the paper and rinse the paper under running water until the exposed areas turn dark blue and the covered areas wash out until they are white.

Gallery Walk

Participants' work should be hung up to dry with clothespins on a long string. As a group, the participants should use 10 minutes to look at and to read the other participants' images and poems. Each artist should have an opportunity to speak about their work if they want.

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR BRINGING IT BACK TO CAMP:

This project is great with the poetry, but can also work really well using just natural objects. Also, if you have access to a printer, you can create large negatives on transparency paper from digital images. Upload photos from your camera to a computer and use imaging software to invert the colors in the image before printing.