HISTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT #3: EARLY PHOTOGRAPHIC PROCESS

This course is designed primarily as a presentation/lecture/dialogue format. So, the opportunity to explore an early photographic process hands on, will truly help you to gain an understanding and appreciation for what the early photo pioneers went through to provide us with our film, cameras, and technology of today. This advanced alternative photographic project requires basic black & white photographic shooting and printing skills, and should not be attempted by a student unfamiliar with this technical know-how. You are encouraged to do your own research on the historic process you select, as well as familiarizing yourself with its noted practitioners.

→You must submit a written proposal in a paragraph or so, describing your project choice by Session 3. Late Proposals will adversely affect your grade. Completed project due Session 11.

PROJECT INSTRUCTIONS: SELECT ONE EARLY PHOTOGRAPHIC PROCESS FOR YOUR PROJECT FROM BELOW

For Pinhole project, you may expose onto paper or sheet film. For other historical processes, you may create larger format negatives either conventionally or digitally with acetate, for contact printing technique, as well, as using objects to create composition directly. Negatives may be used from your existing photographic work, or you may shoot specifically for this project. For cyanotypes and kallitypes, the photo lab will supply and mix the chemical kits and the lab techs will conduct workshop times for groups of students using the same process. As soon as proposals are received and tallied, dates will be arranged and posted.

- PINHOLE CAMERA: Make a pinhole camera, or buy a P-Sharan Pinhole camera and create pinhole photographs.
- CYANOTYPES: create blueprint photographs.
- KALLITYPE PRINTS: create platinum/palladium like photographs

REQUIREMENTS: 5 Final Images that correspond to a theme- You must submit five final photographic images, any size, which result from your experiments. You will have to make trial tests, and trial prints, before you make images which would be considered as “final prints”. These should be 5 final prints you would feel confident to have exhibited or on display.

Short Paper: You will also be required to submit a two page double spaced, typed 10 pt. font paper. Summarize the historical significance of your chosen process, describe your personal experimentations, state your reasons for selecting the specific subject matter you chose, and how this project will affect your future endeavors in photography. Begin your research and experimentations early in the semester, so that you will have time to produce 5 final prints. You do not need to mount/mat images.

HELPFUL BOOKS:
The Keepers of Light, A History and Working Guide to Early Photographic Processes by William Crawford Out of print/used
Historic Photographic Processes by Richard Farber
The Book of Alternative Photographic Processes by Christopher James
Making Kallitypes: A definitive Guide by Dick Stevens

PROJECT SOURCE INFORMATION: There is an enormous amount of information on the internet about alternative photographic processes. These links should be very helpful in obtaining materials, process instructions, historical information, and viewing images created from these processes for inspiration. Also, refer to photo user groups and forums for other input from photographers who can share their tips and techniques.

→PINHOLE CAMERA
http://www.pinholeresource.com great site run by Eric Renner, considered to be the premier pinhole expert, and enthusiast.
http://www.pinhole.org//make/exposure.cfm good info on making exposures

→CYANOTYPES, KALLITYPES
http://www.alternativephotography.com Superb technical instructions for early processes & negatives, gallery, forum, articles...
http://www.photoforum.com The best resource for raw photographic chemicals, specialty formulations, and process kits.
http://www.freestylephoto.biz Very good mail order photographic source specializing in hard to find photographic materials.
http://www.bostick-sullivan.com Manufacturer and Supplier of specialty photographic formulations & process kits, Helpful hints
http://duke.usask.ca/~holtsg/photo/faq.html Excellent FAQ on Alternative Processes
http://unblinkingeye.com/Articles/Kallitype/kallitype.html Good source on making Kallitypes
http://www.alternativephotography.com/process_kallitype.html Excellent info on Kallitype process