

## Art Lesson: Construction Paper Sun Print

### Description

For this project you will make a construction paper sun print using materials you might have around the house or can get on your next trip to the grocery store. A sun print is just what it sounds like, a **photograph** you make using the sun! Your final image is a **photogram** of sorts. You will see a **silhouette** of whatever items you place on your paper.

### Materials

- Construction Paper
- Backing: Cardboard, foam core, or something rigid
- Clear front cover: Plexiglass, glass, or saran wrap
- Binder clips, rubber bands, or rocks
- Objects: **Organic** material like plants and flowers, flat things like paperclips, cut out shapes or letters made from paper, etc.
- **Ultraviolet light** (the sun!)

### Process

Use a rigid surface like cardboard as a backing to assemble your **composition** on top of. Next place a piece of construction paper, then arrange your items on top of the construction paper. I chose to make a cutout saying “Mom” since Mother’s Day is coming up. Finally, place your clear front piece on top to make it all flat. This will help make the edges more defined. Clip it all together using binder clips. If using saran wrap pull tight around the backing and clip on binder clips to hold in place. You can also weigh it down with rocks. Place in direct sunlight for at least 2 hours. The sample you see was left in the sun for 4 hours. The longer you leave it in direct sunlight the more **contrast** there will be. The objects you place on the paper block out the light and the rest of the paper is exposed to the sun, causing it to fade.

### Vocabulary and concepts introduced:

**Photograph-** the root words literally translate to “drawing with light.” While photographs were traditionally made with cameras the meaning of what a photograph is today has expanded.

**Photogram-** a photographic image made without a camera. It involves placing things on the surface of (usually) a light sensitive material and then exposing them to light.

**Silhouette-** A silhouette is the image of a person, animal, object, or scene represented as a solid shape of a single color, with its edges matching the outline of the subject. The interior of a silhouette is featureless

**Ultraviolet light-** Ultraviolet (UV) radiation is electromagnetic radiation of a wavelength shorter than that of visible light, but longer than that of soft X-rays. The name means "beyond violet", violet being the color of the shortest wavelength of visible light. The sun is an example to UV light. Many alternative photographic processes require the use of UV light.

**Organic-** living things or material that comes from living things

**Composition-** The arrangement of elements within a work of art.

**Contrast-** Contrast is simply defined as difference. Difference between art elements like color, value, size, texture, and so on can intensify the elements used. As a result, the elements used in a work of art can become more powerful. In the instance of this project contrast refers to a difference between value (lightness or darkness of a color).

**Explore Contemporary & Historical Artists connecting to these ideas!**



Figure 1: Installation view of Hye-Ryoung Min's diaries, including diaries with tributes

**Hye-Ryoung Min: Hye-Ryoung Min's work in BSC's exhibition *Novel Ideas* includes what she refers to as tributes, small flowers, rocks, twigs, and plants collected during walks. She decided**

**to take these walks and collect a tribute after reading each of her journals.**

**Rand Renfrow: Rand Renfrow's exhibition at BSC More Findings is inspired by taking a closer look at the world including his everyday surrounds, from household items to plants and rocks.**



Figure 2: Untitled drawing by Rand Renfrow



Figure 3: Ceylon by Anna Atkins

**Anna Atkins: was an English botanist and photographer. She is often considered the first person to publish a book illustrated with photographic images.**

**Man Ray: was an American visual artist with significant contributor to the Dada and Surrealist movements. Man Ray claimed to have invented the photogram—which he called a "rayograph"—not long after he emigrated from New York to Paris in 1921.**



Figure 4: Untitled "rayograph" from 1922 by Man Ray