



Workshop – Creative Alternative Printing (Van Dyke Brown Process)

Overview:

The Van Dyke print was very popular from the late 19th century through to the 1920s. It was based on a process devised by Sir John Herschel during the 1840s. The process is so named because the rich brown colours it generates is reminiscent of the tones and colours used by the Flemish painter Sir Anthony van Dyck (1599 – 1641). Until the 1920s pre-coated Van Dyke paper was commercially available and the process was used mostly for making copies and contact prints.

Although pre-coated paper is no longer available, preparing and coating your own paper is a straightforward process. Just like the Cyanotype Process, the coated Van Dyke paper requires exposure in sunlight and processing in water. The Van Dyke print also needs a thorough rinsing and fixing to prevent fogging.

Course outline:

The Van Dyke Brown workshop is a hands-on adventure, where we will explore alternative coating methods and coating surfaces. As the Van Dyke is very similar to the Cyanotype process, more emphasis will be placed on creative printing techniques; we will play with toning processes, and have fun with prints produced in the Cyanotype workshop. We will also throw a dash of Cyanotype chemistry into this workshop... you'll have to attend and see what the surprise is all about!

Who should attend:

Alternative printing processes is of historical and educational value and regarded as a fine art medium. Not only for photographers, beginner to professional, but also teachers, educators, illustrators, graphic designers and artists are welcome. Students will greatly benefit if they have done the cyanotype workshop but it is not compulsory.

Level: Beginner

Admission requirements: Basic knowledge of photography is useful, but not essential.

Materials :

Two images have to be handed in no later than 3 weeks prior to the workshop, and can be delivered on CD (large at least 300dpi A4 size) or sent by email to janus@silvertone.co.za.

What type of image? The Van Dyke and Salt printing is easy, and most subject matters go well with the brown, red and Smokey-black tones.

Fees include all materials required, including A4 litho negative, Japanese hake brush, fine artist's water colour paper, light-sensitive chemistry, printing frame, and all necessary safety gear. Please note - these processes are NOT hazardous if performed correctly.

Duration: 1 session (5 hours)

Lecturers: Suzette du Plooy

Contact: suzette@openwindow.co.za | Tel +27 (0)12 648 9200 | Fax +27 (0)12 665 0253