Photograms

The photogram is another way in which artists have created collages using everyday objects.

In the 19th century, photographer William Henry Fox Talbot made the first photograms by placing leaves and lace onto photosensitive paper and leaving them in the sun.

Many 20th century artists used this technique to make abstract and humorous collages. You can see below one of the first 20th century photogram collages, which was made by the German artist Christian Schad. On the right you can see a photogram collage made by the American artist Man Ray. Fun fact: Christian Schad called his photograms 'Schadographs,' while Man Ray called his 'Rayographs.'



Man Ray, *Untitled Rayograph*, silver gelatin photogram, 1922, private collection.



Christian Schad, *Schadograph*, silver gelatin photogram, 1918, Museum of Modern Art

Make Your Own!

- Gather objects for your collage. Find objects that will create interesting silhouettes.
- 2. Get paper for your collage. You can buy photosensitive paper at any craft store, or you can use colorful construction paper.
- Place your objects on your paper and leave them in the sun for 3-5 hours to develop.
- 4. Remove objects to see silhouettes below.