

Alex Delapena, Graduate Fellow in Art

Sun-Bleached Photograms

Students will learn about image making without a camera utilizing a process called *contact-printing* through photograms. *Contact printing* is rooted within the history of photography and image making. While learning about the relationships between the historical and present day of the use of images, students will be presented with an alternative way to make a photogram. This process will be safe to do and chemical free with mostly available household items. As with other forms of art, students will be given the opportunity to explore different compositions and forms of arrangement within the boundaries of a sheet of paper.

Content Area Keywords/Searchable Terms:

Photogram (s), photography, historical photography, printed-matter, paper, composition, contact printing, arrangement, assembly.

Learning Objectives/Outcomes:

By the end of the lesson, students will learn how to construct their own contact printer to make a sun-bleached photogram and learn about drawing with light directly onto paper.

Common Core Learning Objectives:

Knowledge: knowing how images were made during the early days of photography's development.

Execution: learning a brief history and constructing a way to make photograms with sunlight.

Reflection: students will consider composition, form, and translation of three-dimensional (3D) on to a two-dimensional plane (2D).

Outcome Assessment Strategies:

Knowledge on history of photography from the 19th century.

How to consider composition through arrangements.

Personal expression with light and objects directly onto paper.

Alex Delapena is an artist currently living in Los Angeles, California and works with sculpture and photography. He looks at the surface and deconstruction of public facades as a form of mark making. Delapena recontextualizes these residual marks to abstract, fragment, and fabricate the forms in his work. He is interested in the relationship between historical presence and public space, often focusing on its position between the familiar and the uncanny. Delapena received his BFA (2015) at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and was an artist in residence at 3331 Arts Chiyoda, Tokyo, Japan (2020). He has recently exhibited in group shows with the Photographic Exploration Project at Tête Gallery in Berlin, Germany, and the Lithuanian Photographers Association at Prospekto Galerija, Vilnius, Lithuania. He has shown his work in Honolulu, HI, through artist-run spaces such as Studio 114 A Gallery (2014), and was also featured in the 2017 Diffusion Annual, by One Twelve Publishing.