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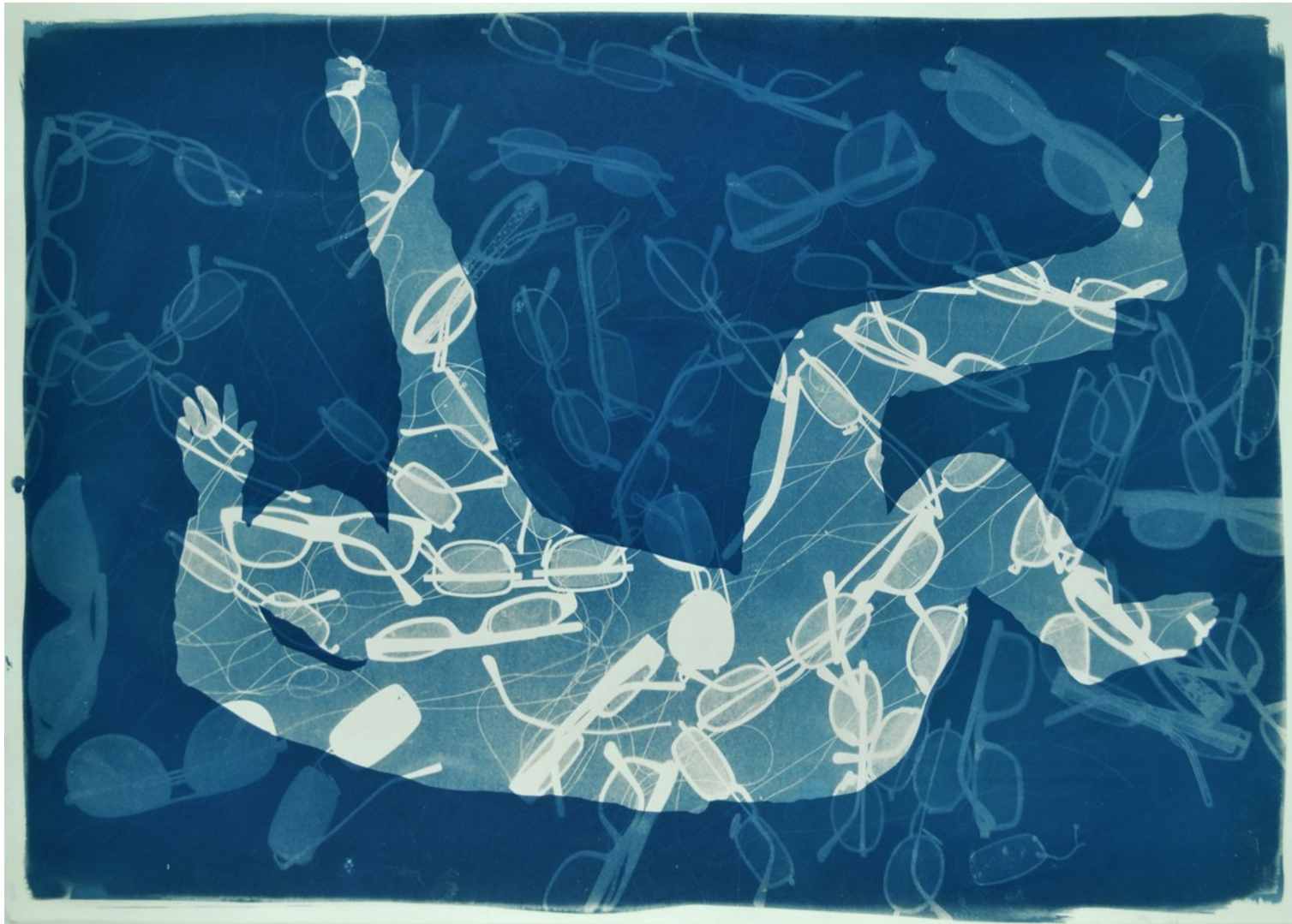
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I am an artist and printmaker living in Newport, Wales, UK. I have a Masters Degree in Fine Art Printmaking from Chelsea School of Art in London and I am a key member of Cardiff Print Workshop where I deliver regular printmaking classes to CPW members and the public.

As an artist and printmaker, I have always relied strongly on process to transform and enrich my work, seeing each new technique as a creative journey. Printmaking has been my chosen medium for many years and it is an area of my artistic practice about which I am passionate. Recently I have made work based on the natural landscape and the urban environment and used computer technology to generate prints via laser-cut and screen print as well as working with more traditional methods of printmaking and cyanotype.

My work using the cyanotype process involves combining the shape of the human figure with contact prints of trash and other objects and the 'All Washed Up' series of cyanotypes on paper was made using things that I found in the streets after a storm. These artworks are intended as a reflection on the ever increasing build up of plastic waste that threatens to over pollute the world.



All Washed Up Glasses, Cyanotype prints, 59 cm x 84 cm, 2016



All Washed Up Plastic Bottles, Cyanotype prints, 59 cm x 84 cm, 2016



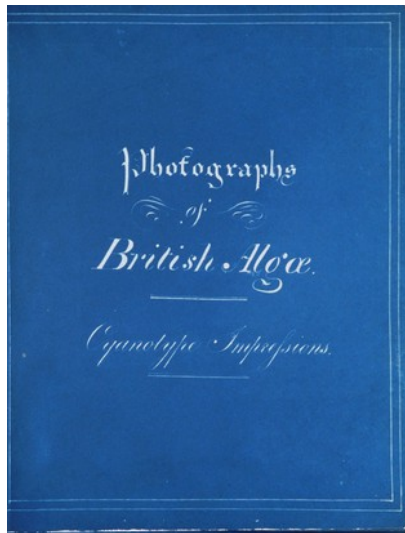
All Washed Up Polythene, Cyanotype prints, 59 cm x 84 cm, 2016



All Washed Up Umbrellas, Cyanotype prints, 59 cm x 84 cm, 2016

Cyanotype Photography

Cyanotype is an antique photographic process distinctive for its Prussian blue monochrome prints. The process was invented in 1842 by the astronomer Sir William Herschel at a time when photography was still in its infancy. It was quickly left behind as photography improved, moving into silver based chemical processes, only surviving as a copying technique for documents and architectural plans in the form of blueprints. The first photographic book was produced using the cyanotype process by the English botanist and photographer Anna Atkins. Her book, *Photographs of British Algae: Cyanotype Impressions* was published in 1843.



Recently there has been renewed interest in old or alternative photographic techniques and cyanotype is recognised as being one of the easiest and safest forms of these to master. The chemicals can be applied to a variety of surfaces and exposed in contact with an object or negative either directly to the sun or to an artificial ultra-violet light source. Development simply involves washing with water and allowing to dry naturally.

The Science Bit

The basic cyanotype chemistry has not changed since Victorian times. Also known as blueprints or sun prints the striking blue colour is referred to as Prussian blue. The colour is a characteristic of the chemicals involved. Based on the element of iron, they come in the form of iron salts that are then dissolved in water. The two chemicals are Potassium ferricyanide and Ferric ammonium citrate. Ferric means a compound of iron and cyan means blue. When these chemical solutions are mixed together and exposed to ultra-violet light the iron(II) ion reacts with the potassium ferricyanide to form an insoluble blue compound, blue iron(III) ferrocyanide. This is what forms the image when the unexposed areas of the cyanotype are washed away with water.

Interestingly, at a molecular level iron compounds have a cubic structure that has the ability to capture or hold impurity ions and this was put to good use after the Chernobyl disaster in the 80s. It was used to treat fields in the UK that had been contaminated by the nuclear fallout that spread across large parts of Europe after the fire. The iron compounds absorbed the radio active Caesium 137 present in the soil and helped to inhibit its uptake into the grass and ultimately the animals that grazed on it.

A more detailed description of the science behind cyanotype photography can be found in the e-book Cyanotype: the history, science and art of photographic printing in Prussian blue by Mike Ware, available freely by visiting his website www.mikeware.co.uk

Other books and websites:

<http://alternativephotography.com/>

<http://michellevine.com/cyanotype/>

Blueprint to cyanotypes, exploring a historical alternative photographic process by Malin Fabbri and Gary Fabbri