**Phytogram Recipe P. Hoffman**

There are no recipes without acknowledgements. Anna Atkins, made the first Cyanotype art book. Borrowing from Sir John Herschel’s experiments of `light on iron compounds’, Atkins had the brilliant idea to put plants directly on photosensitive material in 1842. Her exquisite book, Photographs of British Algae were made as gifts to friends and family. More recently, artist Karel Doing developed the process of Phytogram-making, which is derived from Anna Atkins’ Cyanotype process, but works specifically with motion picture film, plants and household non-toxic ingredients. Also thankyou to Greta Snyder for some pointers.

**Mix Developer:**

Put 32 ounces or 1 litre water at room temp into a tray or tupperware container

add to water and stir in:

4 tblsps of Washing Soda/Laundry Detergent (Sodium Carbonate)

\* can be normal or green laundry powder

add to fluid and stir in:

2 tblsps of Vit C powder (\*Ascorbic Acid)

the fluid will fiz

\*order Abscorbic Acid from Nutribiotic

\*\* note that this recipe is slightly stronger, than Greta Snyder’s recipe (#2 in the same folder)

**Mix Fixer:**

Take 2 ounces of fixer fluid full strength (I have given you) ---mix with 28 ounces of water which makes 32 ounces or 1 litre

or

**Mix Salt Fixer** (if you want to go full organic):

2 cups of water (half liter/16 oz) + 1/2 cup/4 oz of normal salt. If you have

non-iodized salt, you can make a bigger batch: (i.e. 4 cups/1liter water/32 oz + 1 cup/8 oz of salt).

\*I have also used road salt and mix it 2 parts water to 1 part salt (so ½ of the water-filled

container should be filled with salt…try to put the salt on top of the film (or bury it).

**Phytogram-Making Process:**

**Developer**

Step 1: Put small flat leaves or flower petals into the developerfor at least 30 minutes

Step 2: Lay out strips of film with emulsion (dull sticky side) facing up ***OVER……***

Best done on hot day with sunlight but will work with bright light

Step 3: Take the leaves/petals from fluid (developer) shake off access fluid and gently lay flat on strip of film (leaf should be touching film as much as possible). Plaster the film with plant material for strong effect. (see pictures from Greta Snyder article #2 in same folder).

Leave the leaf or flower on film for around 40 minutes..you can also leave it on overnight to let it dry on the film… in this case some of the flower petal or leaf can stay attached to the film which can create a lovely effect.

**Wash**

Step 4: After around 40 minutes in developer put strip of film in water to wipe off access leaves/flowers and developer

**Fixer**

Step 5: Put Film into fixersolution for about 2 to 5 minutes, until the portion that was not

touched by the leaves/flowers goes clear….you can remove film from fixer before it goes clear, if you like the look of it.

or

**Salt Fixer**

Step 5: Put film into a light tight container with salt solution for 12 to 24 hours

\*I have also used road salt and mix it 2 parts water to 1 part salt (so ½ of the water-filled

container should be filled with salt…try to put the salt on top of the film (or bury it).

**Wash**

Step 6: Wash film in water for 5 to 10 minutes

**Dry**

Step 7: hang film to dry for 30 min to 1 hour