

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

S2D0791 | SALT AND ALBUMEN PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINTING

Tutor: PETER MOSELEY

Dates: 2 DAYS MONDAY 4 JUNE – WEDNESDAY 6 JUNE

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

This course introduces students to the practice of one of the famous nineteenth century photographic processes using silver, table salt and, a later development, egg white (albumen). Salt printing was the first negative/positive photographic process, developed in England in the 1830s and produces glorious brown (sepia) prints. Participants will be able to print from their favourite digital or film images.

Developed initially in the 1830s through to the 1860s, salt printing was the first technique able to produce more than one photographic print of an image. Originally, the inventor Henry Fox Talbot made negatives on paper within his rudimentary cameras and then salt printed with these to produce his iconic pictures. He set up the first photographic printing works on a roof-top in Reading and produced the first silver-print part-work publications.

The colour varies, according to how the print is made, but commonly is a rich brown/purple – sometimes referred to as sepia. The prints are made by coating good quality paper with solutions, firstly of table salt and then of silver nitrate. The paper is then exposed, under a negative, to the sun, or more usually a sun lamp of some description, and developed by washing in water.

It became fashionable to give salt prints a surface sheen by coating the paper with salted egg-whites (albumen) before the second coating with silver nitrate. As in bakery, the egg-white can give an attractive gloss and increase the apparent 'vibrancy' of the print.

The course aims to introduce participants to the principles and practice of negative/positive printing and to develop the process skills necessary to make prints for themselves aware of the health and safety issues involved.

The objectives for this workshop are for participants: to develop and practice contact photographic printing skills; to be able to manipulate the chemistry, exposure and development of sensitising solutions; and to work to safe procedures.

By the completion of the workshop, participants should be able to:

- Make negatives suitable for salt/albumen printing from selected original images.
- Mix and coat sensitising solutions on appropriate paper substrates, using brush and glass rod techniques.
- Expose, develop, fix and dry at least two salt or albumen prints.

This course offers demonstrations and hands-on opportunity to explore this classic printing technique. No prior experience is necessary.

LEVEL: SUITABLE FOR ALL

A subject focused course that is delivered to suit any level of experience from beginner to advanced practitioner. A structured start is followed by guided independent practice.

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Dr Peter Moseley is an experienced photographer and printmaker using the techniques and processes of the nineteenth century, including platinum printing and photogravure, salt and albumen, carbon transfer, kallitype and cyanotype printing. A qualified teacher, he has taught photography/printmaking workshops at universities and print centres in the UK and abroad.

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Monday 4 June

From 4.00pm	Arrival for residential students
6.45pm	Non-residential students please arrive by 6.45pm for welcome chat and dinner
7.00pm	Dinner
8.00pm–9.00pm	First teaching session – attendance is an essential part of the course. The tutor will begin with some discussion on photography history, show examples of different processes, and use of a large format camera.

Other days: Tuesday 5 June

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.30pm	Tea
4.00pm	Afternoon classes continue
5.00pm	Classes finish
From 6.30pm	Dinner
8.00pm	Evening working: workshops are usually available up to 10pm for those wishing to work on providing this has been discussed with the tutor, however there may be some restrictions on the use of some chemical-based processes without the tutor present. These sessions are untutored.

Departure day: Wednesday 6 June

(Residential students to vacate rooms by 10am)

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.00pm	Classes finish
3.30pm	Tea then departure

REQUIRED PREPARATION:

Participants should bring digital files of images they wish to print using the Salt and Albumen processes.

MATERIALS FOR YOUR COURSE:

We have a generously stocked craft shop, which opens daily from 8.30am–2pm.

For any materials you need to purchase from the shop, we suggest you do so during the first morning of your course, after having discussed with your tutor.

Materials included in the course fee:

The course fee includes the cost of materials shared amongst the group.

Please bring:

An overall and wear covered non-slip shoes in the workshop.

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

The tutor instructs students in health and safety issues relevant to this course. Students may work unsupervised on agreed projects once they have satisfied the tutor as to their competence. There may be restrictions on the equipment and chemicals available to students to use in the tutor's absence. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.