

# How to make an Anthotype

*Anthotypes* are ephemeral photographic images made from juices extracted from common flowers, fruits, and vegetables. The plant-based emulsion is applied to paper, dried, contact printed with an object or positive transparency, then exposed to the sun for days or weeks. It was developed in the Victorian era by scientist Sir John Herschel. Anthotype comes from the Greek word meaning *Flower Print*.



**Collect plant material:** brightly colored flowers, berries, or vegetables such as beets, spinach, Swiss chard. The color of the plant material selected will form the color of the resulting Anthotype.

For this demonstration we are working with red rose petals.

**Grind plant material** with hand-held blender or mortar & pestle to a pesto-like consistency, add a dash of rubbing alcohol to help extract color:



**Strain with cheesecloth** (wear gloves):



**Coat paper:** Apply liquid plant emulsion with a foam or hake brush.  
Let dry between each coat, apply 2-3 coats keeping away from sunlight while drying.  
Store coated (unexposed) papers in a light proof container in the refrigerator until ready to use.

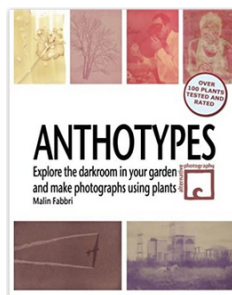


**Contact print:** place found objects (flattened plant material, positive transparency photo) on top of Anthotype paper inside a contact printer. Expose to sun for days/weeks until the color begins to fade (brighter color will hold under the object):



Exposure times will vary according to plant emulsion. Plan on days to weeks for exposure!  
Take a peek, when you achieve good contrast the Anthotype is done!

Learn more:



Anthotypes: Explore the darkroom in your garden and make photographs using plants, by Malin Fabbri