



# Alternative Photography Summer School



## Chlorophyll Printing Guide

Create images on leaves using the action of sunlight on chlorophyll



### Materials - you will need:

- Leaves such as rhubarb, hazel, sycamore, cherry, chickweed, currant, dandelion, or larger leaves from weeds. Pick a selection of large, flat, undamaged specimens.
- Smaller items such as flowers, leaves, ferns, feathers, lace, stencils with interesting shapes and outlines, or try black and white negatives to create an image
- Clip frame or piece of glass / Perspex
- Digital camera, phone or scanner to capture the finished image.

### Method:

1. You will need plenty of sun, bear in mind the sun is highest and strongest at midday.
2. Exposure may take a day, several days, or sometimes weeks depending on the time of year, and light levels, so protect from rain.
3. Place smaller items with interesting outlines such as flowers, ferns, feathers, lace, or black and white negatives etc. on top of larger leaves.
4. Place in a clip frame, or under a pane of glass or Perspex, in a sunny position. This needs to be secure so you may need to weigh it down with stones.
5. Wait and see what happens – after a day in the sun the exposed leaves should start to fade or change colour. There may be some condensation from the moisture in the leaves but this is normal and doesn't require adjustment.
6. When you are happy with the amount of fading achieved, take off the glass or open the clip frame. Remove feathers, lace, leaves etc from the larger leaves, and bring the finished chlorophyll print(s) indoors.
7. The resulting chlorophyll prints are fragile and should not be exposed to sunlight, so it is a good idea to photograph them and then keep them safe in a cool dark place. Have fun!



Artists: [Binh Danh - https://binhdanh.com](https://binhdanh.com)  
[Almudena Romero - www.almudenaromero.co.uk](http://www.almudenaromero.co.uk)  
[Rosemary Horn - http://photogirl.co.nz/](http://photogirl.co.nz/)  
[Ingrid Guyon - www.ingridguyon.com](http://www.ingridguyon.com)

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