

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

WHAT IS A TINTYPE?

A tintype, also known as a ferrotype, is an old style of photograph that creates a photographic image on a thin sheet of metal that has been coated with a dark lacquer or enamel. A tintype is made using the wet plate collodion process.

WHAT IS WET PLATE COLLODION?

The Wet Plate process is performed much as it was in the 19th century. It is a labor intensive process with many variables. Factors such as lighting, motion, and chemistry all affect the final image. This special process is often unpredictable. The final product is completely made by hand photograph, the image will never be technically "perfect." Find more info about the history of this process here <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tintype>

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

This project is funded by Arts Services Inc. and is free of charge.

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

Please choose your community center from the website. Indicate what time slot is best for you. Add the names of everybody in the photo. Kindly arrive on time.

WHAT DO I WEAR?

Patterns and textures with contrast look great in tintypes! We recommend not wearing clothing with text or graphics as they will appear backwards in the final image. The process flips everything horizontally.

HOW LONG WILL MY SESSION TAKE?

Sessions will last about 30 mins. Please arrive on time or you will need to reschedule.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE SESSION?

Sessions include one tintype. Your session does not include retakes unless there are clear issues with the image, such as closed eyes. Retakes are done at the discretion of the photographer.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING A SESSION?

Sessions begin with a quick chat about any ideas you may have for your tintype. I ask that you kindly remain in the same place while I prepare the plate. After about 3 mins I'll make final focusing adjustments before photographing the image. This requires 3-12 seconds of being totally still. (please note this can be quite difficult for the little ones & furry friends) After a few minutes of magic, we'll be able to see your image together!

HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN BE PHOTOGRAPHED ON 1 PLATE?

We can easily photograph 1-2 people on a 4x5" plate and may be able to fit 4 people max.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE PHOTOS?

The tintype photographs will be part of an exhibition open throughout the month of May. After the exhibition all portraits are returned to the individual/family. Tintypes will be available for pick up at the community center after the exhibition.

WHEN IS THE EXHIBITION?

The project will culminate in an art show open to the public! The opening will be on May 3rd at WWTS Photography Gallery at 93 Allen Street, Buffalo, NY, 14202. Light refreshments will be available. Please come to the opening and bring your family & friends!

WHERE IS THE ART GALLERY?

WWTS Photography Gallery at 93 Allen Street, Buffalo, NY, 14202.

HOW LONG WILL THE EXHIBIT BE UP?

The month of May, with an art opening on May 3rd from 5-8 PM.

WORDS OF CAUTION!

This is a chemical process and extreme care needs to be made while in the studio. We use bright lights and flashes which may make some upset or uncomfortable. Also lights are extremely fragile and heavy. It's important that all parties in the studio are able to act in a respectful manner. Please use your best judgment based on this information when booking portraits that include small children.