



WORKING WITH artists
photography school & gallery

Working with Artists

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LAKEWOOD SENTINEL

Taking Pictures Without A Camera:

Working with Artists' photography classes teaches topics without sacrificing fun

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By Meredith Knight

Amameigh Love, 10, sat in front of a hodgepodge of items, from bracelets to woodchips, grass clippings and lace, and tried to find the right combination of items to make a yin-yang.

She settled on a large silver bangle bracelet, a chain she used to create the wave shape to divide the circle and two buttons to mark the center of each of the pieces.

Love then positioned her collage on a sheet of pale green fabric and took the entire setup out to bake in the sun for 10 minutes.

The result was a blue-and-white photograph of Love's design, much like the negative of traditional photograph. The technique is called "blueprint photography."

"Today we're going to take pictures without a camera," instructor Billie Rommes told the class of 3- to 10-year-olds.

Rommes teaches Saturday Sunny Shooters classes held at the Working with Artists photography school and gallery space in Lakewood.

Rommes encouraged the class to think about the textures of the objects they would use in their photograph, from soft items like feathers to rigid objects like old metal jewelry and beads.

"Photography helps you become more aware of the world around you because you're looking through the eye of the camera," said Valerie Photogoddess, who heads the children's education programs at Working with Artists.

That new awareness can translate into everyday experiences, such as a trip to the grocery store, Photogoddess continued.

"You start to notice the color of an eggplant or the shape of arugula," Photogoddess said.

Because only the outlines of the objects



Cianna Coleman, 4, picks a small group of pedals in Belmar to use in her blueprint composition during the Sunny Shooters photography class for kids taught by Working with Artists on Saturday, July 11. *Photo by Justin Sagarsee*

KIDS AND CAMERAS

In addition to Saturday's Sunny Shooters Classes, Working with Artists also holds a photo camp and goes onsite to schools and libraries to teach children about photography.

The next children's class will be Imaginary Friend from 1 to 3 p.m. on August 5. Classes are held at the school, in Lakewood's Belmar Arts District. The cost is \$35. For more information, visit Working with Artists' Web site, www.workingwithartists.org or call 303-837-1341.

were visible in the blueprint photo, and the composition, how the student artists positioned the items in the photograph space were most important.

The class searched through a bucket of flat objects Rommes brought in. Then, class went on a scavenger hunt to find interesting nature items to include in their blueprints.

The students returned with leaves off trees, grass clippings, small flowers and one rock.

"What about this bracelet, would that look cool?" Celeste Coleman, 8, asked Rommes.

"Yeah. Now you're thinking," Rommes replied.

Jaisen White, 8, and Kaya Rodrigues, 7, also got creative. They used their hands as objects in their blueprints, struggling through the 15-minute wait for the exposure to take in the hot sun.

But, it was worth it.