

Fun with Photograms Activity

Martha Madigan created this image without using a camera. She placed objects and people on light-sensitive paper and exposed it to the sun to make a **photogram**. The word photogram means "light drawing" when roughly translated from Greek.

Now you can use the sun's rays to create amazing works of art easily at home! Follow the instructions below.

Materials:

- Tape or thumbtacks
- Cardboard
- Sun-sensitive paper (available at art stores or online)
- Opaque materials like arts and crafts supplies (beads, buttons, collage materials), paper, or objects found in nature (leaves, twigs, etc.)
- Envelope, folder, or box
- Tray with water

Instructions:

1. Mount your sun-sensitive sheet on a piece of cardboard. Use thumbtacks or tape to hold it in place.
2. Arrange your opaque materials on the sheet. Attach them with thumbtacks or tape.
3. Store your photogram in a box, envelop or folder to protect your photogram from the sun.
4. Go outside with your photogram and expose it to the sun for a few minutes.
5. When the sheet turns light in color, remove it from the sun.
6. Go back indoors and remove the materials from the sheet.
7. Place your sheet in a tray of water and develop it for a few minutes.
8. Let it dry. Afterwards, hang it up, and enjoy your photogram. For fun, give it a title!



Martha Madigan (b. 1950), *Lares*
1996-97, Solar photogram, 24 x 20
inches, Museum purchase, 2002.20