

First Impressions

First Impressions was based on Erik Erikson's theory of human psychological development. Erikson's theory states that there are eight life stages of human progression beginning with the phase he labeled *Basic Trust versus Basic Mistrust (infancy – 18 months of age)*. During this period, a child attains a sense of hope through his/her developmental struggle between trust and mistrust, which is greatly influenced by a person's psychosocial environment. The seven remaining life cycle sequences function similarly. My initial idea was to use the cyanotype photographic process to make a male and female bust-length portrait to depict each level of human growth. Historic photographic processes fascinate me, which is the primary reason I chose to make cyanotypes. Since my undertaking was rooted in psychology, and the color blue has such a storied association with psychology and *emotion (he is blue in the face, he has a case of the blues etc.)*, I thought blue images seemed appropriate. After completing the project, I began sequencing my pictures, and playing around with old botanical cyanotype images from a previous endeavor that was inspired by Anna Atkins; an 18th century English botanist and photographer. Although the botanical pictures were not actually part of my *First Impressions* assignment, I liked how the imagery married, and decided to combine elements from both bodies of work to display on my website.