

to go! Saul Bolaños

Saul Bolaños is an artist from Costa Rica, a coffee-growing country, who invented a new way of printing photographs called Cafegrafia. He wanted to use coffee in a new way besides just drinking it. He also wanted to create photographic images of his native land and people. The subjects in many of his pictures are picking coffee beans because coffee is a large part of Costa Rican culture. Saul Bolaños also discovered that his technique could be used to preserve old pictures and restore historical images of the past.

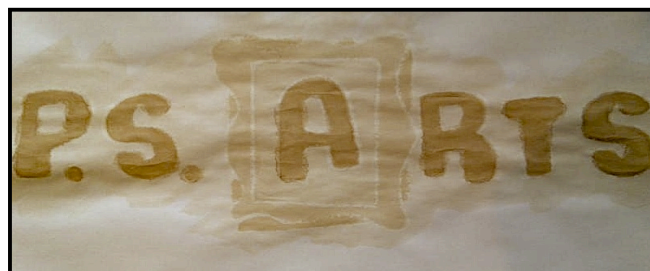
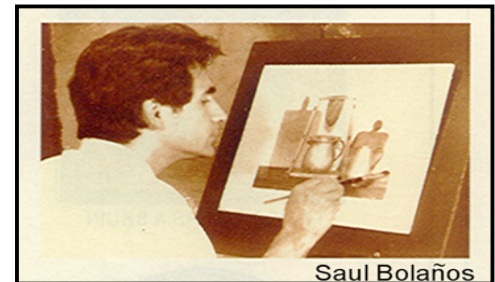
In traditional photography, light transfers an image onto special paper and the image appears or develops when the paper is dipped into certain chemicals. Saul Bolaños created a similar process to develop photographs using coffee! Like a scientist, he had to test many different ideas, measurements and solutions before he found the one that worked best. Saul Bolaños uses a **SECRET FORMULA** to make Cafegrafia paper, and then brushes coffee on it to make his picture appear. Since, we don't have actual Cafegrafia paper, let's make our own!

Materials:

- Coffee (ask your parents if there is any leftover from the morning!), White paper, White crayon, A paintbrush or sponge, Napkins

Directions:

- First, decide what the subject of your coffee photo will be. Remember that Saul Bolaños chose important images of culture and history. Can you think of an important subject in your culture or history? Or maybe an older family member? Try tracing an old family photo!
- On the white piece of paper, use the white crayon to draw your picture. It may be hard to see! Try holding it up to a light, looking at it from a different angle or you can lightly outline your picture in pencil and then trace over it
- Once your picture is finished, lightly brush coffee over the entire paper and then dab it off with a napkin. This is called a wax-resist. The coffee doesn't absorb into the wax – that's why it stays white! Don't worry if the paper starts to look wrinkly – that's what old pictures look like! Just be careful that the paper doesn't get too wet or it will rip.
- Keep adding and dabbing layers of coffee until the image appears and you are happy with the old-fashioned sepia (brown) color! Take your time – let the paper dry between every few layers. Try shading certain areas with extra coffee.
- Now let your Cafegrafia dry! You can add more details with a pen or pencil once it is done drying. Why not make another while you're waiting!



Student Example