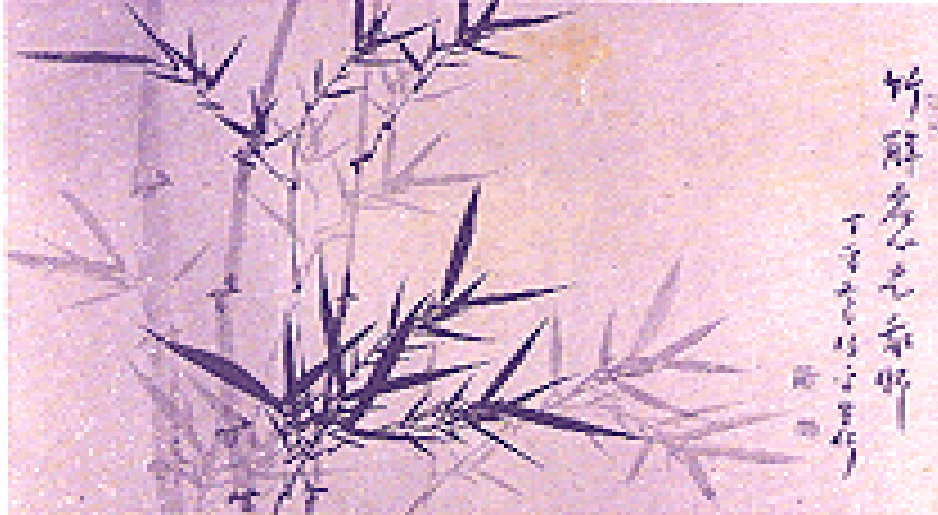


Standards: 7.1.3, 7.2.2, 7.5.3
8.1.1, 8.3.4

The Sumi-e Landscape
Wells Art 7/8

Asian Brush Painting

Contrary to western art techniques where the goal is to make an image that duplicates reality, Asian painting is created to **capture the “spirit”** of the scene. The use of misty ink washes and lightly applied areas are meant to indicate mountains, trees and other physical objects reinforces the mystical and **magical essence of nature** itself. Asian philosophy (Zen and religion (Buddhism) teaches that **mankind should attempt to find a “oneness” with nature**. Individuals should not attempt to conquer or dominate their surroundings, rather it is the goal of each person to find a balance within nature. This ideal is represented in the size **the human figures (small) as compared to the overall landscape (large)**.



Tools of the Trade

Traditional painting tools used to produce sumi-e paintings are made of natural materials.

- The *Hake* is a flat brush used to tint wide spaces such as the sky or hills.
- The *Hoboku* is an all purpose brush for forms and various brush strokes.
- The *Yuen-boku* is the ink stick made from lamp soot and glue.
- The *Suzuri* is a flat stone used to hold and grind the ink stick in water.

These tools are used together as an extension of the artist's hand to express his/her feelings about their natural place in the universe. A feeling of “oneness” should be achieved as the artist works, or as the viewer observes the finished product.

Capture the Zen of a Landscape

Materials: Brushes, paint wash, paper strips.

Activity:

- 1) While sitting outside, observe nature.
- 2) Use paint and wash to interpret background, middle ground, and foreground
- 3) Add general objects like trees and structures.
- 4) Finally, develop contrast by adding small, dark details
- 5) Add Chinese calligraphy to painting.