

BOWERS
MUSEUM

Bringing the World to You



virtual
FESTIVALS



Chinese
New Year
Virtual
Festival

The
Nicholas
Endowment

bowers.org



Bamboo Brush Art

materials

Rice Paper or Watercolor Paper	Paint Brush	Black or Green Paint
Styrofoam Plate	Pencil	Red Ink
Scrap Paper	Water Cup	



Background Information

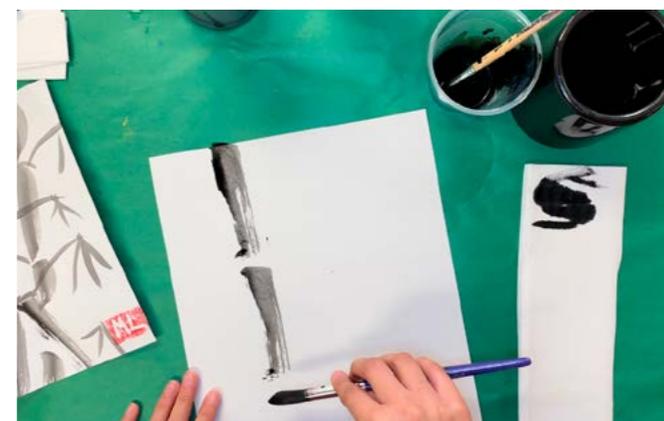
China has a long history of utilizing bamboo. Not only was bamboo used as paper, but it has also been used in building, fishing, cooking, and the arts. Artists would use certain animals and plants to symbolize ideas. Bamboo, with its deep roots and straight stems, represents resoluteness, honor, strength, and modesty. For this reason, ancient scholars and artists wrote poetry about bamboo and included it in paintings.

Chinese chops are seals used to sign important documents and artwork. They can be made from wood, stone, ivory, or jade.

www.chinaculture.org

Procedure

1. Tempera Paint- Mix a bit of the tempera or acrylic paint with water.
 - a. No preparation required for watercolors.
2. Dip the paint brush into the paint. Keep the point on the brush by rolling it against the water cup.
3. Hold the brush perpendicular to your hand, with your thumb on the bottom and the rest of your fingers on the top.
4. By making a forward circular motion, make short strokes down the sheet to create bamboo stems. Leave a short gap between each stroke.
5. Grab more ink and, using the same motion, paint more bamboo on the sheet.
6. In each gap of the bamboo, make a small arc with the brush.
7. Bamboo leaves grow from the gaps, or nodes, and they alternate. Draw a thin branch along each break on the bamboo, making sure to switch sides as you go along.
8. To paint the leaves, keep the same hand position from step 4, only now with the brush tilted upward.
9. Starting at the end of the branch, make downward motions to create the bamboo leaves, 2-3 per branch.
10. Now that the art is finished, it is time to sign your work with a personalized chop.
11. Cut a piece of Styrofoam into a 2-inch square.
12. On a scrap paper, practice making a small signature using your initials or a special shape.
13. Once you have your signature ready, it must be written backwards onto the Styrofoam square.
 - a. Trace your signature with a dark marker, then flip over the paper.
 - b. How it looks is exactly how it must be transcribed to the Styrofoam square.
14. Use the pencil to press your signature deep into the Styrofoam square.
15. Cover with red stamp ink or red paint and immediately stamp onto your bamboo art.





For more fun from home, follow us @bowersmuseum

BOWERS
MUSEUM