

Family Day Art Activity:

Create a Chinese Painting for Your Home



Try traditional Chinese Painting techniques to create a painting of red fruits for your home. These fruits appear frequently in Chinese painting and used to bring luck. They can represent whatever you want: apples, cherries, crabapples. The choice is yours.

We will also create the calligraphy character 家, which means home.

Materials:

- Brush
- Rice Paper
- Felt Mat
- Red Pigment
- Black Ink
- Paper Plate
- Cup of Water
- Paper Bowl
- Paper Towels

Chinese painting is one of the oldest painting techniques in the world. This technique is similar to watercolor but the pigments interact with the rice paper in a unique way to create shapes that are unable to be reproduced through other media. This work used high quality pigments and raw rice paper. The pigments were derived from minerals and plants and will last for centuries without fading.

Chinese calligraphy is the writing of Chinese characters as an art form. Combining visual art with the meaning of words.

Instructions

Please work with an adult and be sure to lay newspaper over anything you don't want to get dirty.

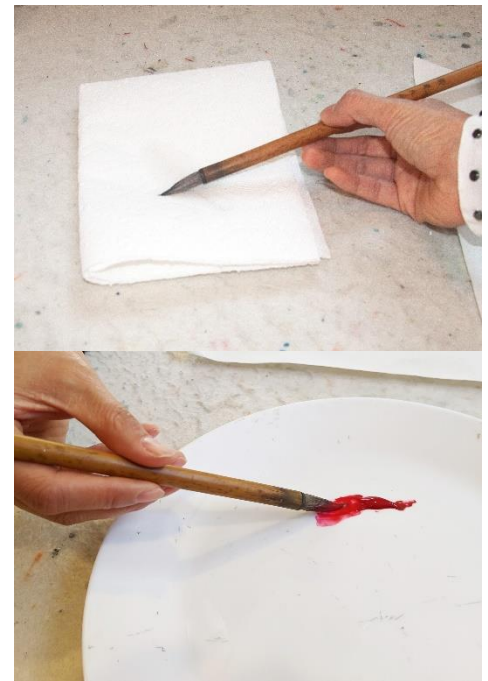
Preparation



1. Fill the bowl with water.
2. Soak the brush in the water until they have all softened.
3. Dispense a glob of black ink onto one side of the paper plate. On the other side of the plate, dispense a glob of red pigment.
4. Lay the felt mat on the table and put a piece of rice paper on top of it. (The felt mat prevents the rice paper from sticking to the table and will help absorb excess water from ruining the painting.)
5. Fold a paper towel in half and set it to the side. This will be used to remove excess water from the brush.

Painting the Bodies of the Fruit

1. Dip the brush in the water.
2. Remove excess water from the brush by pulling the sides of the bristle along the paper towel. Be sure to pull with the grain of the bristle so it retains its shape.
3. To add red pigment to the brush, place the side of the bristle into the red pigment. The pigment should be about halfway up the bristle. Roll it around until all sides are covered. Try to keep the pigment on the lower half of the bristle.
4. Use two brush strokes to paint the body of a red fruit onto the paper.
 - a. Paint more bodies of red fruit on your paper to create a scene. If you feel like being adventurous, you can play with the amount of red pigment and water on the brush to create darker or lighter fruits.
 - b. When done painting all the red fruit bodies, clean the brush by stirring it in the water until all red pigment is removed.



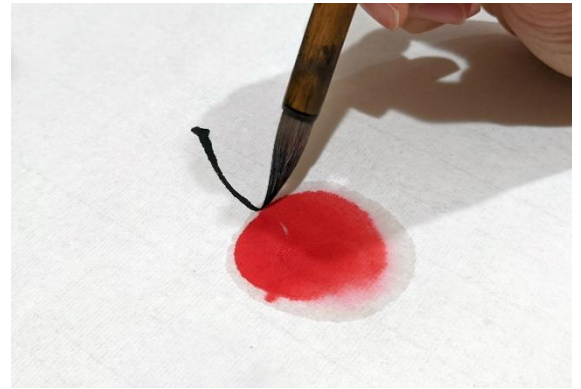
Step 1



Step 2

Painting the Fruit Stems

1. Apply the black ink to the brush using the same technique you used for the red pigment. Roll it around until all sides are covered.
2. Dry the brush after applying the ink by running all sides of the bristle along the paper towel. The brush should be mostly dry in order to create fine lines.
3. Starting above a fruit, gently run the brush in a line to create the stem. Do this for all the fruit.



Congratulations! You have just created your first Chinese painting.

Chinese Calligraphy for “Home”

Apply the black ink to fill up almost the full brush and use the same technique you used for painting the fruit.

1. Write out the first part of this character.
This represents the roof of the home.



2. Now let's add the family to the home.
Start by drawing the two lines below.



3. Then add the two additional lines.



4. Finally add the last two brush



Share photos of your creation by tagging @artsmia on social media or email familyprograms@artsmia.org.

The activity was designed by Wenwen Manfred, from WenwenLiao Art Studio.
You can check out more of Wenwen's art on Instagram ([Wenwenliao_art](https://www.instagram.com/Wenwenliao_art))