

Chinese Painting Basics

What is Chinese Painting?

A Chinese painting is mainly line art painted with a Chinese brush, ink and colors on rice paper or silk. Often, the painting is in linear perspective. On the painting, there is Chinese calligraphy that inscribes the name of the painting, a poem and artist's signature along with a red chop (similar to a rubber stamp that contains artist's name or a phrase).

Traditionally, Chinese artists define objects with lines rather than surfaces. They mainly use ink to paint. The idea of simplicity from both Taoism and Buddhism deeply influences artists who consider other pigments as secondary media that serve the purpose of perfecting the ink.

Three Categories:

Landscape Painting,

Flower and Bird Painting,

Figure Painting

Two Styles:

Meticulous (detail style) - Gong-bi in Chinese;

Freehand (or sketch style, spontaneous style) - [Shui-mo](#)

Six Laws:

First, Spirit Resonance, which means vitality.

Second, Bone Method, which is the way the brush is used.

Third, Correspondence to the Object, which means depicting the form.

Fourth, Suitability to Type, which involves the laying on of colors.

Fifth, Division and Planning, which is placement and arrangement.

Sixth, Transmission by Copying, which is the copying of models.