

Chinese Color and Color Loading

There are differences in the use of color between Chinese painting and modern western painting. Chinese painting aim is not to express the various shades of color of the subject in relation to a fixed source of light, but to express the characteristics of the different subjects.

For example, the adding of traces of brown or green to rocks, trees, leaves, grass and moss in a painting is used to reinforce the feeling of a particular season or state of the weather.



Color Loading

Color adds a great deal of interest to a painting. Load a main color onto the brush and then tip it with a darker color, or load three or four colors one after the other. As with most things, do not overdo this or the effect will be “muddy.” Use a palette or a white wall tile to mix and blend the colors in the brush. You will actually obtain more colors than you load, because they will blend together. Try to achieve “large and small” amounts of color – the basic principles still apply.

It is useless carefully to load the brush if you do not use it in the correct manner. Avoid making a pool of color in a palette and then using it blandly – a small amount of another color on the tip of the brush will help. When you load the brush tip, make sure that it is placed where it is needed – in the center of a flower, for instance, to indicate the trumpetlike structure, or to the point of a petal to give a darker edge to the flower. If you wish to paint a

very thick branch, dip the brush in ink and place the tip on the outer edge of the trunk of the tree as the example.

As with all of the mixing and design, too much of something will be as boring as too little. So a little simplicity or plainness will emphasize the ornate. Do not, therefore, use too many colors, or too much variation.

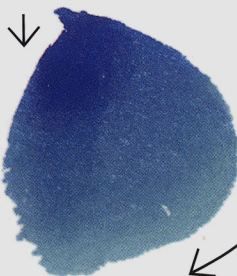
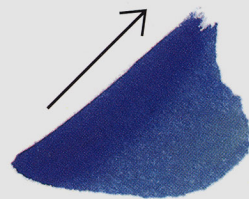
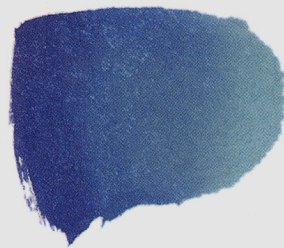
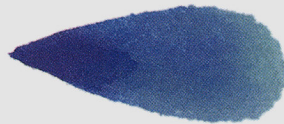
Hints and Tips

If a painting is not going well, and you normally sit to paint, try standing for the next effort, or vice versa. Or, if you normally use a firm brush, try a softer version. Try a different scale as well. If you do not obtain the results you would like, then change the subject to one that you are more confident with, or if all of these fail, go and do something else! It is probable that you will succeed next time. Tell yourself “It is not my day for this subject” rather than saying “I cannot do it.”

Color loading

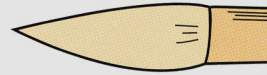


Purple/dark blue/light blue

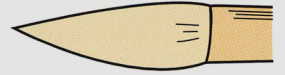
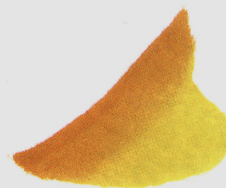
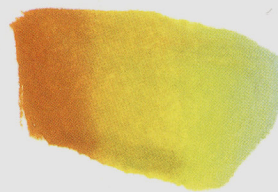


Slight downward movement as you move the heel of the brush

Swing heel round



Orange/yellow



Red/pink/white

