**Japanese Sumi-e Painting**

Corrales Art Center

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Course Description:

This is an entry level course for people who have never had experience with Japanese style brush-and-ink-painting (sumi-e). It is also a continuing course for more experienced students. We will learn and practice the fundamental techniques which are used in all aspects of sumi-e. The techniques are simple, and when put together you will be able to create quality aesthetically pleasing works of art. In this art form practice does indeed make perfect. Because of the repetition involved, we can expect to go through many sheets of rice paper. We will begin with simply flowers and progress to full landscapes.

Materials Needed: (Available at Artisan’s on Monte Vista, on the corner of Richmond. Artisan’s will give a 10% discount when you show them this course outline).

Essential needs to begin with:

* one Haboku *sumi-e* brush, medium size (Haboku has a brown shaft. It is more expensive, but superior in quality; please invest in one);
* one large *suzuri*, or ink stone (there are two sizes available; buy the larger one);
* one rectangular ink stick (there are two qualities available; buy the better one); and
* one or two 9” X 12” or 12” x 18” pad of rice paper (we will paint on 9”X12” sheets so a 12”X18” sheet will go twice as far.)

You will also need:

* a container for water. This can be a large plastic yogurt container brought from home (or you may purchase a three-chambered ceramic or plastic water container);
* a small ceramic or plastic white dish to make light ink;
* some kind of paper weight;
* a 24” x 24” piece of felt to put the rice paper on as you paint; and
* a small cotton cloth for blotting water from the brush (a wash cloth will do).

Tentative Schedule

Class Number Lesson and Techniques Learned

First Class Morning Introducing the materials and their uses; arranging the painting area; preparing the ink; loading the brush. We will begin right away with grasses and simple flowers.

First Class Afternoon More practice with Orchids and more complex flowers.

Second Class Morning Painting bamboo and trees. Composition considerations.

Second Class Afternoon Adding birds and rocks.

Third Class Morning Introducing mountains and streams.

Third Class Afternoon Full Landscapes

You can expect much repetition and gradual progress as we learn each skill and incorporate each into the others. This style of painting is based on the continual assimilation of new skills into those previously learned.

Basic Principles to Keep in Mind

* When you sit down to paint, **set aside who you are and what you know**.
* When you sit down to paint, **let the theme express itself** through yourself.
* **Each repetition** of a theme is **the first one**.
* The **more the essence** of the theme is expressed, the **more simple the painting**.
* Thus, when you sit down to paint, **simply paint - and paint simply**.

The Four Elements of Sumi-e

* Working with Light and Dark Sumi Ink
* Working with Wet and Dry Brush
* Working with Soft and Strong Brush Stroke
* Working with Empty Space on the Paper

A Beginning Sumi-e Book List

Chiba, Reiko (Ed). (1979). *A Copybook for Japanese Ink-Painting*. Charles Tuttle Publishing Company. ISBN: 0-8048-0124-X

Mayhall, Yolanda. (1989). *The Sumi-e Book*. Watson-Guptill Publications. ISBN: 0-8230-5022-X

Okamoto, Naomi.(1996). *Japanese Ink Painting: The Art of Sumi-e.* Sterling Publishing Company. ISBN: 0-8069-0833-5

Saito, Ryukyu. (1984). *Japanese Ink-Painting: Lessons in Suiboku Technique.* Charles Tuttle Publishing Company. ISBN: 0-8048-0305-6

Thompson, Kat Morrissey. (1994). *The Art and Technique of Sumi-e Japanese Ink Painting.* Charles Tuttle Publishing Company. ISBN: 0-8048-3984-6

Yamada, Sadami. (1990). *Complete Sumi-e Techniques.* Japan Publications Inc. ISBN: 0-87040-361-3