

## CHU Hing-wah

### Suggested class activities for Senior Primary

**Artist:** CHU Hing-wah

**Level:** Senior Primary

**Theme:** Flowers in the World of Ink

**Suggested length:** 2 hours

**Teaching concept:**

Chinese painting is always associated with paper, brushes and ink, and depicts generally depict landscapes, portraits, and birds-and-flowers.

CHU Hing-wah excels in using traditional Chinese painting materials to depict the people and their lives around him. With a special touch of modernity, his signature techniques of painting in Chinese ink on the reverse of the paper and then integrating subdued colours to the front surface produces a harmonious effect to his work.

This course aims to help students appreciate the creativity and style of CHU's works by understanding his unique personal experiences. It encourages students to breathe new life into traditional Chinese painting with a touch of modernity.

**Required background knowledge:**

1. The students should have a basic understanding of how to depict flowers in lines.
2. They should know about the basic materials used in Chinese painting.

**Teaching goals:**

1. Learn about CHU's painting style and themes of his work through his video.
2. Compare CHU's works with traditional Chinese flower painting.
3. Explore and master the techniques in using ink and colour on *xuan* paper.
4. Appreciate the visual effects of applying a layer of Chinese ink to the reverse of the painting.
5. Create a work using different techniques and method of colouring the reverse side of the painting.

**Suggested class activities:**

1. **Introduce CHU Hing-wah and his artistic style (Suggested length: 15 mins).**

**Show the "Artist Introduction ppt" pp1-3**

Born in Guangdong Province in 1935, CHU Hing-wah received the Urban Council Fine Arts Award – Painting (1989), Painter of the Year Award from the Hong Kong Artists' Guild

Association (1992), etc. He also received an Asian Cultural Council fellowship, which enabled him to study fine art in New York in 1993.

A retired psychiatric nurse, CHU's early works depicted the mental anguish experienced by his patients, as well as the sense of inner isolation of urban dwellers. After retirement, he focused on depicting the people, landscapes and sentiments within his community. Although he uses Chinese painting materials such as *xuan* paper, brushes, pigments and ink, CHU does not refer his practice to traditional landscape or figure painting. Instead, he likes to express the feelings and issues of modern daily life. His extraordinary use of ink and colour adds a harmonious and dreamlike quality to his paintings, which has become a trademark of his artworks.

2. **Video viewing guide (Suggested length: 2 mins).**

- Pay attention to the themes adopted by CHU
- The painting techniques

3. **Play the “Artist Video mp4” (Suggested length: 15 mins).**

Select parts of the video, depending on your chosen area of focus, pausing as needed to explain the content or ask questions.

Suggested Q&A:

- What are the major themes of his works?  
(Society, buildings, people, dreams)
- What are the tools that CHU uses?  
(*Xuan* paper, Chinese painting pigments, Chinese ink, ink brushes, etc.)
- What are the techniques adopted by CHU? What are some common features of his works?  
(He applies ink on the reverse side of the *xuan* paper, dark backgrounds)

4. **Appreciation of CHU's works (Suggested length: 5 mins).**

Show the “Artist Introduction ppt” pp4-6

Show CHU's works on flowers (no. 1, 2 and 3).



Taken from Artist Video 09:49

**Guide the students to appreciate in the following steps:**

- Descriptions: Describe the flowers depicted in CHU's works.  
(Black background, flowers in a vase)
- Formal analysis: What are the features of the background, and the flowers and vase depicted in the picture?  
(The contrast of the light coloured flowers and the black background encourages a sense of contradiction. The pink flowers are eye-catching. There are patterns on the vase, such as dots and curved lines. The vase occupies most of the space in the picture.)
- Explanation: Deduce why CHU drew these works themed on flowers.  
(The flowers are brightly coloured and elegant, symbolising elegant ladies.)

Show CHU's works on flowers (no. 1, 2 and 3), as well as the Chinese flower painting to guide the students to appreciate different artistic expression.



*A Hundred Flowers* (section)

JU Lian (1828-1904) / Undated

Handscroll, ink and colour on silk, 36.5 x 617 cm

Collection of the Hong Kong Museum of Art

**5. Group activity (Suggested length: 15 mins):**

Show the **“Supplementary Teaching Materials ppt” pp1-3, images taken from the “Techniques Demonstration Video”**

Have the students try out visual effects on *xuan* paper by using paints of different densities and applying ink on the reverse side of the paper.

Procedure:

- The teacher should first prepare the ink.
- The students fold the *xuan* paper, dividing it into four sections and apply paint of different densities on each section.
- They begin with the first section (amount of paint to water: 2:1) and then continue adding different amounts of water to the paint to finish painting the other three sections.

- Once it is dry, they apply ink on the reverse side of the *xuan* paper.
- Discuss in groups and wait until dry.

Try out visual effects on *xuan* paper by using paints of different densities and applying ink on the reverse side of the paper.

Fold the *xuan* paper, dividing it into four sections and apply paint of different densities on each section. (Each group is responsible for a color: red, yellow, blue, etc.)

For examples: the first section (amount of paint to water: 2:1)

Once it is dry, they apply ink on the reverse side of the *xuan* paper. Discuss in groups and wait until dry.

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## 6. Introduce the art-making process (Suggested length: 15 mins)

Show the **“Supplementary Teaching Materials ppt” pp4-10**, images taken from **“Techniques Demonstration Video mp4”**

- Make a draft first. Refer to the pictures of vases and flowers, and on the draft paper, draw a vase with two to three flowers seen from different angles. Draw the contour lines with a black marker. (Tips: It is suggested to draw flowers with four to six petals. When drawing a flower with five petals, for example, first draw a circle on the paper. Divide the circle into five sections and draw a petal in each section. When depicting flowers at an angle, draw an oval and divide it into five sections.)

1 Make a draft first, draw a vase with two to three flowers seen from different angles. Draw the contour lines with a black marker.

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- ii. Place the draft paper under the *xuan* paper. The pictures on the draft paper will appear through the translucent *xuan* paper. With a pencil, draw five to six flowers on the *xuan* paper. (Tip: Freely adjust the angle by rotating the draft paper.)



2 Place the draft paper under the *xuan* paper. The pictures on the draft paper will appear through the translucent *xuan* paper. With a pencil, draw five to six flowers on the *xuan* paper.

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- iii. Colour the work: Dip the brushes in paint and remove the excess paint using the edge of the paint dish. Colour the picture dot by dot with the tip of the brush. Never paint in large strokes. (Tips: Add some white paint when blending different colours. This can enhance the visual effect. The paint should not be too thin. It is suggested to blend two portions of paint with one portion of water.)

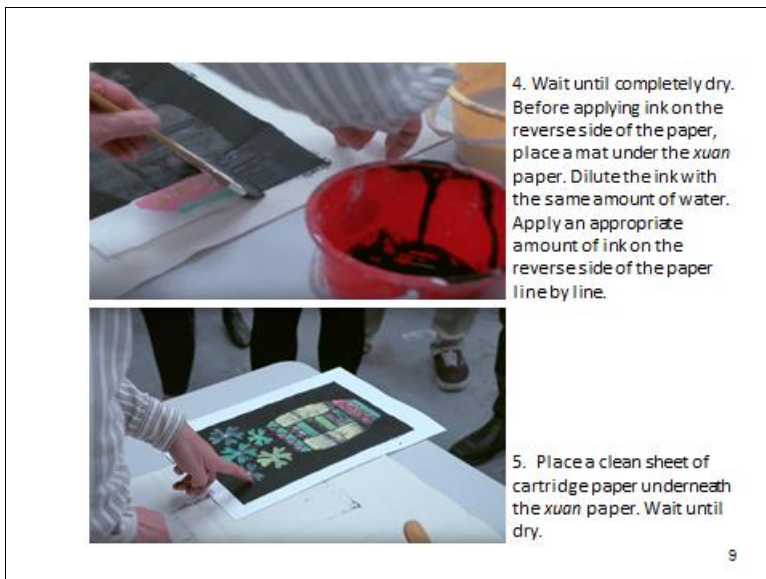


3 Colour the work: Colour the picture dot by dot with the tip of the brush.

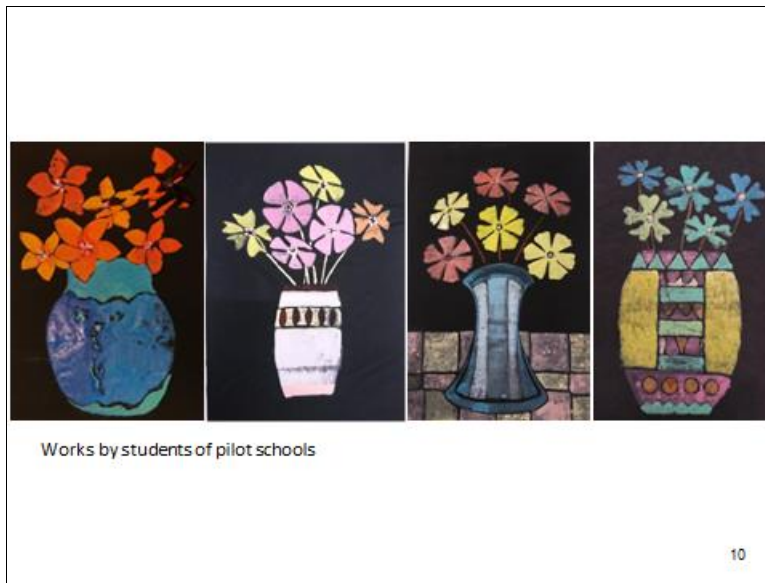
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- iv. Wait until completely dry. Before applying ink on the reverse side of the paper, place a mat under the *xuan* paper. Dilute the ink with the same amount of water. Apply an appropriate amount of ink on the reverse side of the paper line by line. (Tips: *Xuan* paper breaks easily when wet. Apply the ink gently. First try applying ink on scrap *xuan* paper.)



v. Samples:



vi. Place a clean sheet of cartridge paper underneath the *xuan* paper. Wait until dry. (Tips: Students can place a paper on the *xuan* paper after applying the ink. Then turn over the *xuan* paper together with the mat and remove the mat gently.)

7. **Class activity (Suggested length: 40 mins)**

Show the **“Supplementary Teaching Materials ppt” pp11-21**

- Have the students create a piece of art on the theme of flowers with reference to CHU’s artistic style.
- Draw flowers on the *xuan* paper with Chinese colour pigments.
- Apply a layer of ink on the reverse side of the *xuan* paper.

8. **Appreciation of the students’ works (Suggested length: 5 mins).**

9. **Materials**

*Xuan* paper, Chinese painting pigments, Chinese ink, big and small ink brushes, flat hake brushes, mats, cartridge paper, A4 paper (for making drafts), pencils, black markers, water glasses