

Luis CHAN

Suggested class activities for Junior Secondary

Artist: Luis CHAN

Level: Junior Secondary

Theme: A Fantastic World of Dreams

Suggested length: 4 hours

Teaching concept:

Drawing can be based on still-life objects or inspired from memory, and can be expressed in a figurative or abstract way. Most painters first come up with a topic and then engage in the creative process. This is also a common approach students take to draw.

Hong Kong master painter Luis CHAN took a different creative approach. Inspired by traces of monochrome prints, he painted human figures, animals, and even phantoms and monsters, creating a bizarre and fantastic world.

This course aims to introduce the works of Luis CHAN and how his paintings were inspired by the traces of monotype prints. It encourages students to think out of the box and create fantastical works.

Required background knowledge:

1. The students should have experience in poster colours painting.
2. They should have acquired basic knowledge of printing.

Teaching goals:

1. Learn about and appreciate CHAN's works through his video.
2. Use imagination to create works around the themes of human figures and bizarre animals.
3. Learn about the skills and techniques of monotype printing.
4. Master the technique of colouring with poster colours.

Suggested class activities:

1. **Introduce Luis CHAN and his artistic style (Suggested length: 3 mins)**

Show the “Artist Introduction ppt” pp1-3

Born in Panama in 1905, Luis CHAN (1905–1995) moved to Hong Kong in 1910. In 1927, he studied Western painting techniques through a correspondence course from the Press Art School in London. He became a member of the Hong Kong Art Club in 1934 and held his first solo exhibition in Gloucester House the following year. In 1953, he set up his own studio and began offering classes. In 1960, he founded the Chinese Contemporary Artists' Guild.

CHAN's earlier works were mostly realist watercolour landscapes, and earned him the nickname "King of Watercolour". He started to explore different Western painting techniques in the 1950s, and his style took a turn towards abstract configurations and a rich palette that conveyed a sense of childhood fantasy. Inspired by monotype prints, his paintings are imaginative and dreamlike, creating a bizarre and fantastic world.

2. **Video viewing guide (Suggested length: 5 mins)**

- Pay attention to the themes of CHAN's works
- Change of painting styles
- Sources of inspiration

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

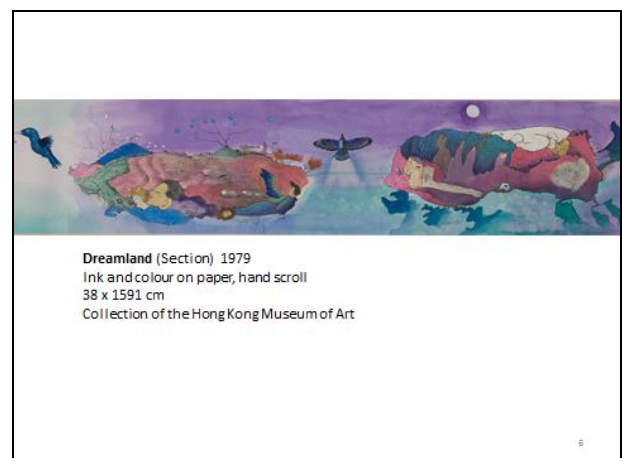
Select parts of the video depending on your chosen area of focus, pausing as needed to explain the content or ask questions.

Suggested Q&A:

- What were the subjects of CHAN's earlier works?
(Traditional still life, landscapes, portraits, etc.)
- How did his style change in his later works?
(He incorporated elements of printing of different media in his works; his later works became more imaginative, abstract, larger, etc.)
- Where did he get his inspiration?
(From his walks in Central and Wanchai, and from his observations of daily life.)

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

Show the "Artist Introduction ppt" pp4-8





Guide the students to appreciate in the following steps:

- Description: How do the form and shape of the human figures in CHAN's works differ from that in realistic portraits?
(The human body ratio in CHAN's works is not realistically proportional. CHAN drew the funny-looking human figures from his imagination and the random associations he made when observing the patterns left on ink prints.)
- Formal analysis: Why did CHAN use long scrolls for these two paintings?
(The long scroll format helps unfold his imaginative world. When the scrolls roll open revealing the paintings part by part, the artist's inner world is slowly unveiled to the audience.)
- Explanation: What are the colour effects in these works?
(CHAN used purple as the main colour theme to create a mood of fantasy; he created colour gradation and ink diffusion effects.)
- Judgement: Do you like CHAN's artworks? Why? How do you feel about his artworks?

5. Introduce the art-making process (Suggested length: 15 minutes)

Show the **“Supplementary Teaching Materials ppt” pp3-8**, images taken from **“Artist Video mp4”**



1. Spread an appropriate amount of printing ink on a plastic plate.

3



2. Use a scraper to create free-association patterns, lines, and patches on the plastic plate.

4



3. Place a piece of white A3 drawing paper on top to make a print.

5



4. Imprint the ink from the drawing paper to a newsprint paper.
Wait for the ink to dry.

6



5. Make an association between an ink mark and human figures or bizarre animals.

7



6. Add gestures to the characters and imagery background to associate with the human figures' facial expressions, colouring with poster colours.

8

6. **Class activity (Suggested length: 90 mins)**

- Use characters or bizarre animals as the subject of the artwork.
- Have the students observe the ink marks and make associations from them to create a draft.
- Have them colour the work with basic colouring techniques using poster paints.

7. **Appreciation of students' works (Suggested length: 5 mins)**

8. **Materials**

Plastic board, scraper, printing ink, A3 drawing paper, newsprint paper (larger than A3), poster colour, mixing dish