

Bamboo Painting

Course Description

This course focuses primarily on bamboo painting. It will teach you how to paint the bamboo shoots, stalks, branches and leaves in a variety of ways and mediums. Learn how to load the brush with multiple tones of ink/paint, how to paint bamboo using calligraphic strokes. Subjects will also include flying birds, the giant panda, a bamboo grove in a landscape scene, and the Three Friends of Winter.

For the beginner, this course can act as a comprehensive introduction to bamboo painting and themes and offers lots of bamboo practise.

For the more experienced, this course can act as a series of masterclasses with the aim of polishing up previously learnt skills and offer lots of bamboo practise.

No knowledge of art or Chinese is required.

Course Outline:

Lesson 1: Bamboo Shoots, Stalks and Branches

Learning Objectives:

1. To learn and practise how to paint the bamboo shoots with the tip and belly of the brush.
2. To learn and practise how to paint the stalks by loading a hake brush with multiple tones of ink and/or watercolour.
3. To learn and practise how to paint the stalks with the bone stroke.

4. To learn and practise how to paint the bamboo joints calligraphically with the horizontal and hook stroke.
5. To learn and practise how to paint the branches using bone strokes.
6. To paint bamboo shoots, bamboo stalks, joints and branches.

Lesson 2: Bamboo Leaves

Learning Objectives:

1. To learn and practise how to paint the bamboo leaves in the fish tail formation for young bamboo, spring bamboo or overhanging bamboo.
2. To learn and practise how to paint the bamboo leaves in the flying goose formation for older bamboo.
3. To learn and practise how to paint the bamboo leaves in the swallow's tail formation for older bamboo.
4. To paint bamboo leaves (including stalks if necessary) in a variety of ways, in a variety of compositions.

Lesson 3: Small Flying Birds and Bamboo

Learning Objectives:

1. To learn and practise how to paint small yellow/blue birds with very few minimalist strokes with few details.
2. To learn and practise how to paint small yellow/blue birds flying in a bamboo composition.
3. To paint a bamboo composition with flying yellow/blue birds.

Lesson 4: Bamboo Grove in a Landscape Scene

Learning Objectives:

1. To learn and practise how to paint a bamboo grove with ink.
2. To learn and practise how to use indigo to add depth to the grove.
3. To learn and practise how to paint distant houses and buildings to suggest the idea of habitation and settlement.
4. To learn and practise how to paint the scholars rock using the outline approach and a dry brush for texture.
5. To paint a landscape scene showing a bamboo grove with distant houses and rocks.

Lesson 5: Bamboo & the Giant Panda in the style of Wu Zuoren

Learning Objectives:

1. To learn and practise how to paint facial details of the giant panda with dry ink.
2. To learn and practise how to bleed ink into an ink tone to create a furry effect.
3. To learn and practise how to paint the giant panda in a variety of positions.
4. To paint the giant panda on a rock with bamboo in the background.

Lesson 6: Bamboo and the Three Friends of Winter

Learning Objectives:

1. To be introduced to the Three Friends of Winter in Chinese culture.
2. To learn and practise how to paint minimalist bamboo in a composition.
3. To learn and practise how to paint minimalist plum blossom in a composition.
4. To learn and practise how to paint minimalist pine in a composition.
5. To paint the Three Friends of Winter as a composition.