

Chinese Painting – Tropical Landscape Painting

热带山水画

Course Description

Tropical landscape painting is a new genre of Chinese landscape painting in which scenes from southern China and beyond are painted in a lively way. From paddy fields, palm trees and banana plantations to stilt houses and rice farmers with water buffalos, scenes from Guilin and the Red River delta to the Longsheng rice terraces, this is indeed “All Under Heaven”. Emphasis is placed on slowly building up the landscape scene as well as integrating some aspects of Chinese calligraphy to create convincing masterpieces worthy to be hung on the wall.

This is an introduction course in which no experience of art or Chinese is necessary.

Course Outline:

Lesson 1: Paddy Fields

Learning Objectives:

1. To be introduced to the southern landscape scene.
2. To learn and practise the Chinese characters for “landscape” 山水.

3. To learn and practise how to paint paddy fields, distant palm trees and human settlement.
4. To add ink tones to suggest reflective water on the paddy fields.
5. To add mineral green colour on the back to suggest rice fields.
6. To paint a distant landscape scene with paddy fields, distant palm trees and human settlement.

Lesson 2: Coconut Palm Trees

Learning Objectives:

1. To be introduced to the coconut tree.
2. To learn and practise how to paint the trunk.
3. To learn and practise how to paint the leaves and coconut fruit.
4. To learn and practise how to paint background rocks.
5. To paint mineral blue on the back to create a blue sky.
6. To paint coconut palm trees in a landscape scene.

Lesson 3: Chinese Fan Palm Tree(蒲葵)/Toddy Palm Tree

Learning Objectives:

1. To be introduced to the Chinese Fan Palm Tree and the Toddy Palm Tree in South East Asia.
2. To learn and practise how to paint the trunk using side of the brush.
3. To learn and practise how to paint the fan leaves.
4. To paint the fan palm in a landscape scene.

Lesson 4: Banana Plant (芭蕉)

Learning Objectives:

1. To be introduced to the banana plant.
2. To learn and practise how to paint the banana leaves in xieyi style.
3. To learn and practise how to paint the leaf stems in triangular forms.
4. To paint the banana plant.

Lesson 5: Stilt Houses and Banana Plantation/Coconut Palm Plantation

Learning Objectives:

1. To be introduced to the plantation and stilt houses.
2. To learn and practise how to paint stilt houses.
3. To learn and practise how to paint the banana plant in gongbi style.
4. To add mineral green colours for the banana plants.
5. To paint stilt houses in a landscape scene with banana and/or coconut palm trees.

Lesson 6: Water Buffalo in the Style of Li Keran

Learning Objectives:

1. To be introduced to the water buffalo in Chinese culture.
2. To learn and practise the Chinese character for “water buffalo” (水牛)
3. To learn and practise how to paint the water buffalo in the style of Li Keran with grasses/reeds.
4. To learn and practise how to paint the water buffalo in two poses.

5. To paint the water buffalo in a landscape scene.

Lesson 7: Longsheng Rice Terraces (龙胜梯田)

Learning Objectives:

1. To be introduced to the Longsheng rice terraces.
2. To learn and practise the Chinese characters for “Dragon’s Backbone” (龙脊).
3. To learn and practise how to paint rice terraces with dry ink.
4. To add ink tones for reflective water and green and yellow for the seasons.
5. To paint a rice terrace in a landscape scene.

Lesson 8: Guilin (桂林) Mountains in the style of Mi Fu

Learning Objectives:

1. To be introduced to the Guilin limestone karst region.
2. To learn and practise the Chinese characters “guilin” (桂林) and the phrase “Guilin landscape is best among all under heaven” (桂林山水甲天下.)
3. To learn and practise how to paint distant limestone karst mountains.
4. To learn and practise how to paint Guilin mountains by using dry strokes.
5. To learn and practise how to add Mi Fu dots for foliage.
6. To paint a landscape scene from Guilin.

Lesson 9: Red River (红河) and Sampan

Learning Objectives:

1. To be introduced to how water is painted in Chinese landscape painting.
2. To learn and practise the Chinese characters for “Red River” (红河)
3. To learn and practise how to paint grasses/reeds in water.
4. To learn how to paint the sampan and moorings.
5. To learn how to add the mineral colour cinnabar to a painting to create the idea of silt.
6. To paint a landscape scene of the Red River with a sampan, grasses and moorings.

Lesson 10: People - Rice Farmers

Learning Objectives:

1. To be introduced to how people are painted in a landscape scene.
2. To practise the Chinese characters for “Heaven and Earth” (天地).
3. To learn and practise how to paint the rice farmer in ink and colour in four poses.
4. To paint the rice farmer in a landscape scene.