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# Chinese Brush Painting: An Academic Approach For Painting Flowers And Fish



## Synopsis

This richly illustrated book is for artists and people with no prior painting experience who want to learn the art classical Chinese brush painting using traditional materials. It follows the free form or "boneless" painting style of brush painting rather than the meticulous style. Each chapter begins with clear, step-by-step instructions to master the elements. Special sections--Practice Tips, Artistic Touch, Setup Guides, and Color Guides--provide essential information at a glance. Over 250 color illustrations show closeup details, errors to avoid, and full paintings. Photographs show brush handling techniques and examples of each flower subject as it grows in nature. Chinese symbolism and philosophy are integrated into the text. The Troubleshooting Guide at the end addresses problems encountered by painters new to this medium.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Yeah. Very good and I have used it a lot. The academics of it explain symbolism in the works, wonderful for painters like me who seek to understand hidden meanings in Asian art. Also great for beginners or just to enrich your library of how-to books for CBP.

An excellent text to supplement brush painting classes

This book really let my son learn the technique to draw Chinese brush painting as a beginner. It is a good book.

I am a novice student; my teacher studied with Ming Ren and has introduced us to his work; Jane Norbeck helped edit this book. It is a beautiful book I rec'd as a gift that I like to reference as inspiration and for its beauty.

I have now purchased quite a lot of books on sumi-e/Chinese Brush Painting and thought I should review the ones I liked best. I wish I had found this one earlier in my quest for books, it is easily in the top five. I love how the authors teach not just the strokes but the paper, the ink, the brush, and how to load it, and composition for each lesson. There are plenty of excellent pictures, including photographs of the subjects in their natural state. They illustrate common errors, give examples by masters--this is as close as you can get to having a teacher by your side. At the end of the book, they have one of the best explanations I've seen on how to mount your work. All around excellent book, and I'm grateful it was written and published.

I have taken a few classes on Chinese brush painting and used several books. This book is the clearest and most comprehensive, and it cleared up some confusion I had from the classes. The approach in this book is to teach the techniques of Chinese brush painting by starting with four classic flower subjects that introduce basic brush strokes and ways to load the brush for different effects. Then other flowers that use variations of these techniques are included. At first I thought the addition of fish in this book was odd, but it is based on similarity of techniques that are used. The final chapter on the backing process is the clearest I've seen. Throughout the book, each step is clearly described in the directions, accompanied by one or more photos to illustrate the process. The trouble shooting guide at the end is right on target for the difficulties that come up in working with the Chinese materials. The illustrations are not only beautiful, but the detailed examples and line drawings make the intent of the instructions very clear. The detailed instructions are clear enough for a beginner to follow. The book also includes aesthetic 'pointers' that are understandable and succinct, but I've found that it takes a great deal of practice for the hand to be able to accomplish what can be described so simply. The combination of clear instructions and descriptions of the aesthetic qualities the artist is striving to achieve makes this book useful for beginners yet it offers continuing challenges for more experienced artists. This book is also valuable for enhancing the appreciation of this art form. The many completed paintings are beautiful and show a range of color and compositional possibilities. The photos of each flower as it grows in nature are also beautiful. I also liked the references to Chinese symbolism in each chapter and the connections to Chinese philosophy and classic texts. Although this book is more expensive than most, I think it is well worth

the price.

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