



Jinshan Peasant Painting

present

## A World of Art PROJECTS FOR KIDS

**CHINA** Chinese culture is rich in art. From traditional brush paintings & classical Chinese opera dramas to the folk arts of paper cuts, puppetry & peasant paintings, the arts thrive in China.

*GATHER SUPPLIES: Pointed brushes, black watercolor, tempera, scissors, paper, tissues, fabric, glue, tape & markers*



Brush Painting Study  
by HuaTao Zhang

### Peasant Paintings

For years, Chinese peasants have embroidered fabric, cut paper & molded clay. These skills enhance their paintings. The flat shapes, bright colors, varied viewpoints & careful details bring daily scenes to life.

- ◆ Select everyday scenes: school, chores, festivities or nature.
- ◆ Combine varied viewpoints to show many details.
- ◆ Draw main shapes with crayons. Outline background shapes, too.
- ◆ Paint all shapes with colorful tempera paint. When dry, paint details.

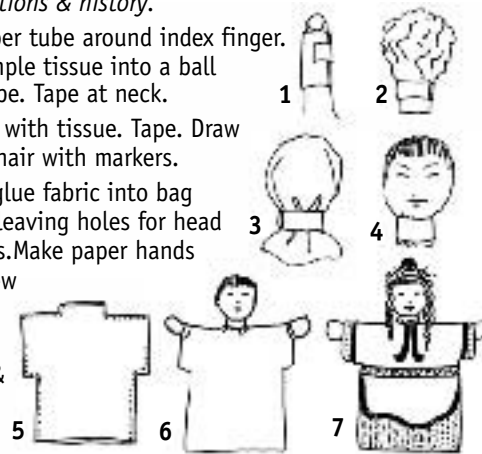


Chinese Hand Puppets

### Hand Puppets

Traditional Chinese puppeteers traveled to villages with a portable stage & puppets. Their deft hand movements, colorful puppets & lively sound effects enlivened favorite stories. Children & elders listened carefully to learn moral lessons, cultural traditions & history.

- ◆ Wind a paper tube around index finger. Tape. Crumple tissue into a ball around tube. Tape at neck.
- ◆ Cover ball with tissue. Tape. Draw face & hair with markers.
- ◆ Fold & glue fabric into bag shape, leaving holes for head & hands. Make paper hands from new tubes.
- ◆ Tape hands & head to bag. Decorate



Decorate clothes with fabric scraps. Make your puppet play!

### Brush Painting

Chinese artists spend their lives perfecting brush-painting skills. First, they master calligraphy's basic brush strokes & techniques. They make ink in a range of values. Later, they practice traditional methods for painting bamboo, landscapes & animals. With these skills, they paint with effective strokes using bamboo brushes & rice paper.

- ◆ Practice with bi (brush) & mo (ink). Dip brush in black watercolor paint, rolling tip into a point.
- ◆ Hold brush vertically. Press, pull & lift it across newsprint or paper. Change brush angle for different strokes.
- ◆ Experiment with wet brush, dry brush, dark black & light gray ink.
- ◆ Use a few strokes to paint birds, pandas or monkeys. Capture their fun. Learn more about Chinese paintings online: [www.metmuseum.org/explore/chinese/html\\_pages/index.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/explore/chinese/html_pages/index.htm)



Artwork by  
Galen D., Grade 5

### Paper Cutouts

Chinese artists cut intricate silhouette paper shapes for decorations, gifts & good luck charms. They hang them on windows, walls & doors. Try making your own Chinese Paper Cutout using lightweight paper.



Paper Cut by Wang Zigan

### Opera Masks

Chinese opera troupes perform stylized dramas in popular performances. Characters are strictly defined through body movements, voices & gestures following age-old traditions. Elaborate makeup designs portray each character through special colors, shapes & symbols.

- ◆ Cut large oval from heavy paper. Cut slits into chin & forehead. Overlap & tape paper at slits for rounded shape.
- ◆ Plan designs for your personality. Pick colors, shapes & symbols to use while painting your mask.
- ◆ Look at photos of Beijing Opera costumes, makeup & actors: [www.novelhall.org.tw/arthur/chineseopera/ehome.htm](http://www.novelhall.org.tw/arthur/chineseopera/ehome.htm)



Chinese  
Opera Mask

### Chops

Chinese artists carve their names into intricate stamps or chops to print on their paintings. Draw your name symbol in reverse on a piece of styrofoam. Print it in red on your painting.



Chinese  
Chops

Activities  
& content  
created by



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Look in the Mercury News

- ◆ Look in the calendar listings for dramatic events showcasing other cultures.
- ◆ Search for photos that depicting daily events in other areas of the world.

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