

Art for Fine Motors

23rd January 2024

During this lesson we will make studies using references from the worlds oldest colour book. We will use watercolours and our watercolour brushes. Or if you have Chinese Calligraphy brushes even better. Standard paper. Each lesson we shall endeavour to make studies inspired from this amazing masterpiece.

The Ten Bamboo Studio'

Shi zhu zhai shu hua pu

This is the earliest Chinese book printed by the technique of polychrome xylography known as *douban* invented and perfected by Hu Zhengyan 胡正言 (1584-1674). The method involves the use of multiple printing blocks which successively apply different coloured inks to the paper to reproduce the effect of watercolour painting.

Great skill is required to achieve a convincing result, but the beautiful gradations of colour in this work have led to its reputation as "perhaps the most beautiful set of prints ever made".

The work is divided into eight categories: birds, plums, orchids, bamboos, fruit, stones, ink drawings (round fans) and miscellany. Each category is divided into two fascicles. The leaves are printed on one side only, folded in half and glued together along the outer fold (the so-called 'butterfly' binding). With the exception of one category, every image is followed by an accompanying text, in most cases a poem.

This copy has been identified by the leading scholar of this work as the finest and only extant complete copy in the original binding of what he describes as the 'second superstate' of the first edition.

Information about this document

- **Physical Location:** Cambridge University Library

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Ink wash painting

Ink wash painting . *shuǐmòhuà*; is a type of Chinese [ink brush](#) painting which uses [washes](#) of [black ink](#), such as that used in [East Asian calligraphy](#), in different concentrations. It emerged during the [Tang dynasty](#) of China (618–907), and overturned earlier, more [realistic](#) techniques. It is typically [monochrome](#), using only shades of black, with a great emphasis on [virtuoso](#) brushwork and conveying the perceived "spirit" or "essence" of a subject over direct [imitation](#).^{[1][2][3]} Ink wash painting flourished from the [Song dynasty](#) in China (960–1279) onwards, as well as in Japan after it was introduced by [Zen Buddhist](#) monks in the [14th century](#).^[4] Some Western scholars divide Chinese painting (including ink wash painting) into three periods: times of representation, times of expression, and historical Oriental art.^{[5][6]} Chinese scholars have their own views which may be different; they believe that contemporary Chinese ink wash paintings are the pluralistic continuation of multiple historical traditions.
(Wikipedia description.)

Sumi-e brushes ideally. Purchase Link provided by Art News Link-

<https://www.artnews.com/art-news/product-recommendations/the-best-beginners-sumi-e-brushes-for-ink-painting-and-calligraphy-1202687292/>

However a 1 inch hake brush and or a size 12 sable round. Some fine brushes would be handy.

.2b , HB, 2h pencil- eraser, pencil eraser, knitting needle shall be demonstrating in pencil

Black ink- or ink stone and ink -or STANDARD watercolours

- Your preferred paper (I shall be using generally all media paper

Image supplied , The Ten Bamboo Studio, **Hu Zhengyan** ([Chinese](#): 胡正言; c. 1584 – 1674

