

CHERRY BLOSSOM SCROLLS



Art Element:

Shape, Line, Space

Tools:

Artist painting Sample
Art Term Posters

Supplemental Tools/Ideas:

Music – use the boom box in the portable
Books – check the Art Docent library, books from home, etc.
World Map – show where artist is from
Color Wheel

Supplies:

White drawing paper – 18x8 (should get three per full sheet)
Chalk Pastels
Straws
India Ink
Set spray

Introduction:

1. Today we will be creating a beautiful cherry blossom in the style of Japanese scroll paintings. How many of you have seen scroll paintings such as this one? Who can tell me where Japan is located on our map? The cherry blossoms are very meaningful in the Japanese culture and often symbolize transience, hope, and power.
2. Although we will not be using typical Japanese painting tools to create our pieces, the results will be amazing and we are using something you'd never imagine – straws!
3. Let's get right into it!

Procedure:

1. First, hand out the drawing paper and chalk pastels. Explain what a typical background may look like...is it a landscape (browns and greens on the bottom, moving up to pinks, golds, and blues in the sky?) or maybe you would like a more of a mountain scape background (more browns and beiges, rigid lines). Whatever background you choose, be sure to use colors that blend well together and use your fingers to get a nice, soft, blended and subtle background.
2. To start your piece, gently dip the end of your straw into the ink and plug the top of the straw. Then carefully bring your straw over to the base of your drawing paper. You are going to carefully drag your straw from the bottom up the middle of the paper just a couple of inches.
3. Now comes the fun part! You are going to VERY CAREFULLY and SLOWLY blow through your straw into the ink. You are going to blow the ink upward and outward, creating a tree with irregular branches. Be sure not to blow too hard or your ink will splatter.
4. When you feel like you have blown that ink as far as it can go, dip your straw into the ink again and repeat the process up the page. Your goal is to create a branchy tree up through the middle of your "scroll."
5. Once you feel like your tree is complete, you can carefully set your straw down and start to focus on your blossoms. Now you will use the red, pink, and white acrylic paints to create blossoms all along your branches. Cherry blossoms are typically quite tiny but often grow in clumps.
6. Once you have dotted your blossoms throughout your tree, you can focus on creating your very own "chop" or "hanko" which a common signature block used in Asian cultures. Create your own unique signature block or choose characters from the list provided. Using your red acrylic, create a unique chop, you can even work your initials in to it if you wish.
7. Once your piece is complete, set it aside to dry. The docent will add the wood dowel and string for display.

Summary/Art Quiz:

1. Once students have cleaned up their work area. Remind them what they learned today.
2. Can anyone tell me the artist's name who inspired us today? And what art techniques did we learn? And do you remember what tools we used? What was your favorite part of this lesson? Use the Art Quiz Door Poster for reference.

Artist Inspiration:

Sakura: Cherry Blossoms as Living Symbols of Friendship

Widely celebrated in Japanese literature, poetry, and art, *sakura* carry layered meanings. For example, because they bloom briefly, the blossoms are often seen as a metaphor for the ephemeral beauty of living. At the same time, the joyful tradition of *hanami* (flower viewing) is an old and ongoing tradition. The practice was first associated with plum blossoms before becoming almost exclusively linked with cherry blossoms by the Heian Period (794–1185). With wider exposure to Japanese art and culture in the nineteenth century, audiences in the U.S. and around the world embraced *sakura* as a particularly Japanese cultural hallmark.

Hanko: Your Japanese Signature Seal

In Japan, rather than sign their names to documents and letters, they use seals, or stamps. These are engraved symbols, carved in wood, jade, ivory, or most commonly, stone. Most people have several seals, or *inkan*, that they use for a variety of purposes. The most common one that they would use for day-to-day, low security purposes, are called *hanko*. Japanese *hanko* are almost always the carved symbol for an individual's last name; they are used for signing personal letters or initialing changes in a document. You may find the *hanko* stamped on the back of an envelope or in a greeting card. In order to use your *hanko* for legal documents, it must be registered with the Japanese government.