**Landscape Sentiment Scrolls**

**Essential Question** How do artists convey meaning through nature and landscape?

**Grade** 1st

**Time** 30–60 minutes

**Art Concepts** Landscape, line, calligraphy, handscroll, mark-making/brushstrokes, natural pigments, aerial perspective

**Materials** Watercolor or copy paper, pencil, black marker, instant coffee, water, scissors, cups

**Artwork in Focus** Reciting Poetry before the Yellowing of Autumn, 1674, by Wu Li

**Talking about Art** We’re going to spend some time looking at a **handscroll** by Chinese artist Wu Li called *Reciting Poetry before the Yellowing of Autumn*, which was made in 1674.What do you think the artwork is about? This is a **landscape** painting, which is a painted image of natural scenery, such as bodies of water, mountains, forests, and valleys. Landscape paintings are very popular in Chinese culture because nature and mountains are associated with spirituality. Often, the subject matter in painted landscapes is made up instead of based on a real place. Handscrolls are continuous rolls of paper or silk on which images are painted. When they are not being viewed, they stay rolled up and tucked away. How is this different from your ideas about or experiences with paintings?

What kinds of **lines** (straight, curved, etc.) do you see in Wu’s painting? What direction do they go in? Are the **brushstrokes** thick or thin, heavy or delicate? Chinese painters use delicate brushstrokes to include **calligraphy** in their paintings. What do you think calligraphy is and what might the calligraphy in the painting be saying? Where do you think you are standing in relation to the mountain? Are you below the mountain, at the same level, or slightly above it? Wu used **aerial perspective**, which is the viewpoint seen from above, to make it feel like you are near the top of the mountain looking down on the trees and flat ground. What do you think the title of the painting is saying? How does the painting make you feel?

**Making Art**

1. Before beginning, think about your favorite place to go in nature. Do you like to go to the beach and get in the water? What about going hiking in the mountains? Or camping in a forest? Or maybe having a nice picnic in the park?
2. Fold your paper in half and rub wet instant coffee onto the paper with your fingers.
3. Now, using a black pen, draw your favorite landscape (the one you were thinking of before, or make one up!). Try to use aerial perspective so that it feels like you are looking down on the landscape. Be sure to use different kinds of lines like Wu did in his handscroll painting!
4. How do you feel when you visit your favorite outdoor place? Using a black marker, write your emotion at the top of your artwork.

**Reflection** Compare your ink painting with Wu’s painting. What are some similarities and differences? What kinds of lines did you use?

Wu’s painting was probably a combination of real and imagined places. Did you use mostly your imagination, reality, or both?

**Curriculum Connections** California Arts Standards for Public Schools—Visual Arts

1.VA:Re7.1: Select and describe works of art that illustrate daily life experiences of one’s self and others. K.VA:Re7.2: Describe what an image represents. 1.VA:Re9: Classify artwork based on different reasons for preferences using learned art vocabulary.

Common Core State Standards ELA Writing

W.1.8.: With guidance and support from adults, recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.

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