



Tyrus Wong

ASIAN ILLUSTRATOR CULTURAL EXPLORATION

WHAT WE LEARNED:

- **Tyrus Wong** was an Asian illustrator and artist who immigrated to the USA from China in 1920.
- We were introduced to Angel Island and the concept of Paper Sons.
- We identified places important to Tyrus.
- We discussed the various art applications in which Tyrus worked: painter, mural artist, concept artist for film, Christmas card illustrator, ceramic painter, and kite maker.

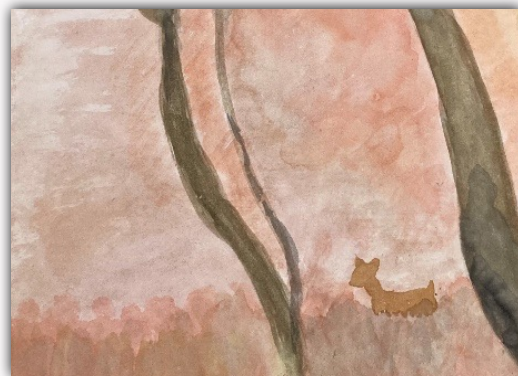
ART ACTIVITY: WATERCOLOR LANDSCAPE PAINTING:

The students painted watercolor landscape art reflecting Tyrus Wong's style in Walt Disney's production, *Bambi*.

CONNECTIONS AT HOME:

Explore these resources to increase your understanding:

- [Tyrus, as well as other critics, briefly discuss his work in Bambi.](#)
- [Coverage of a retrospective art show featuring Tyrus Wong's creativity at Museum of Chinese in America \(MOCA\).](#)
- [Tyrus Wong loved and was influenced by the art from the Song Dynasty period. View this video, noticing the style of the backgrounds in the artwork.](#)
- [Immigration History at Angel Island State Historic Park.](#)



FURTHER READING:

- For how to draw Bambi: *Disney Classic Animated Movies: Vol. 1*, pgs. 28-31
- *The Chinese Takeout Cookbook: Quick and Easy Dishes to Prepare at Home* by Diana Kuan
- *The Chinese Thought of It* by Ting-xing Ye
- *Cang Jie: The Inventor of Chinese Characters: A Story in English and Chinese* by Li Jian
- *The Chinese Exclusion Act and It's Relevance Today* by Duchess Harris
- *The Magic Tapestry* by Demi

Due to the changing nature of web resources, M&G strongly urges you as the parent to preview these sites before your child accesses them. The fact that these sites are available on this handout does not imply that M&G endorses their content from the standpoint of morals, philosophy, theology, or scientific hypotheses.

FOR PARENTS

There are some topics in history that are complex, including the era in which Tyrus Wong's family emigrated from China. You and your child may benefit from discussing The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 together. You can find more information [HERE](#). The **POSSIBLE DISCUSSION POINTS** section below may also prove helpful as you explore the topic.

Possible Discussion Points:

- You could analyze the political cartoons and advertisements from the period on the Exclusion Act webpage.
- From our 21st-century perspective, what can we learn from the past's context? How might this shape our present? Why do we exclude people particularly when it involves our economic prosperity? The Chinese were welcomed or at least tolerated when they were helping build the railroad, but not welcomed when jobs later became scarce during a depression. What does this reveal about human nature?
- You could also compare and contrast how immigrants were treated on Angel Island and on Ellis Island based on their race/country of origin. These are sobering things to consider and discuss.

INVISIBLE PAINT PRACTICE:

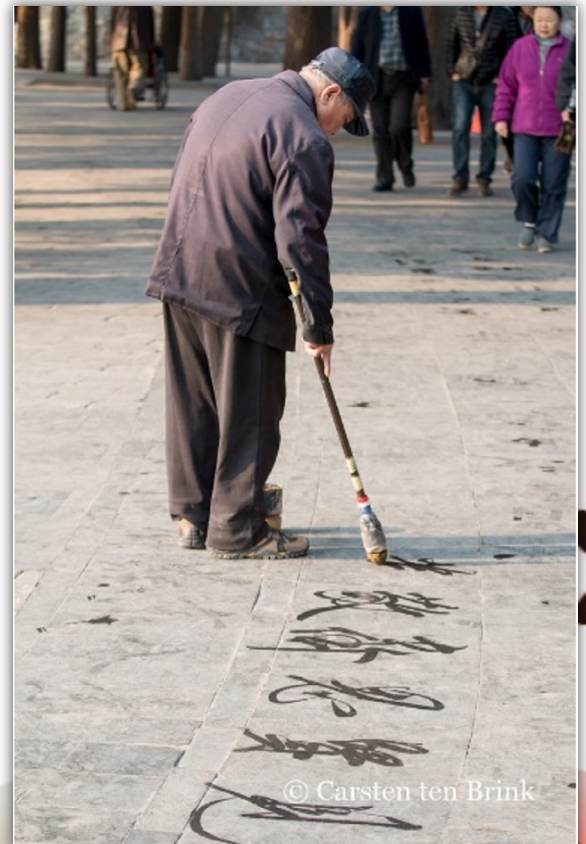
Tyrus Wong did not have much money for school or art supplies, and yet his father thought he needed to practice making the Chinese characters (letters). Tyrus practiced painting the characters (calligraphy) using water on old newspapers. These messages disappeared after the water evaporated. It is not uncommon to see Chinese characters written on the sidewalk in water in China.

Materials:

- Paintbrush
- Cup of water
- Newspapers, copy paper or a sidewalk

Directions:

Do you have math computation, vocabulary terms, spelling words, etc. that you need to review? Try doing it "Tyrus style."



CHINESE INVENTIONS:

Find the word in the puzzle. Words can go in any direction. Words can share letters as they cross over each other. Puzzle made using [PUZZLEMAKER](#). The list of words are taken from *The Chinese Thought of It* by Ting-xing Ye.

WORD BANK:

Chopsticks
Firecrackers
Masts
Paper
Silk
Toothbrush
Compass
Gunpowder
Matches
Porcelain
Stirrups
Wheelbarrow
Crossbow
Harness
Rudder
Noodles
Tofu



M&G EDUCATIONAL MISSION

Through tours, events, and publications, the Museum & Gallery seeks to partner with educators in fulfilling all of the National Visual Arts Content Standards. By integrating art into the core curriculum, M&G's goals are to teach children to value the arts, to communicate through the arts, to become creative problem solvers through the inclusion of STEAM-related concepts and fully-developed STEAM units, to understand history and culture in light of the arts, to improve literary interest and understanding through visual storytelling, to critique the arts, and to develop an aesthetic awareness of the arts. Through fulfilling the mission, M&G is able to help develop citizens who have the ability to think, feel, and understand the world in which they live.



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