

for beginning students

the dance



of the eye

and



the hand

fundamentals of Chinese brush painting by Bob Schmitt

lesson 1

- a beginner's set up & materials list
- a very brief history of Chinese calligraphy
 - the four treasures of the studio
 - preparation for painting

Assumptions behind the dance of the eye and the hand

As a teacher I begin with several assumptions.
Any student coming to me has 3 sets of skills to be nurtured.

First, the student has the skills of the eye - when they look at things, what do they see?

Second, the student has the set of skills of the hand - how are they able to connect what they see to the brush, the ink and the paper?

Third, the student has the set of skills of their heart/mind - how are their actions connected to the source of their energy, their spirit, the Qi?

It is from these assumptions that I now offer the dance of the eye and the hand.

These instructional videos with printable models are based on the concept that to learn Chinese brush painting one must train not only one's hand but one's eye as well.

The understanding is that continued learning is a tension between what the eye can see and what the hand can do.

And that the dance of the eye and the hand will always be in play.

That tension is always there.

Mastery is a process.

Not a destination.



Bob Schmitt

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About brush painter Bob Schmitt



I am a life long student and teacher of the traditions of Chinese brush painting.

I began my study of brush painting in 1962 watching what was then educational tv. I would sit in front of the tv after school with my brush and ink and learn basic forms. I practiced most of my life unschooled.

In the late 90s I was fortunate to begin to study with Lok Tok, Yitong Lok of Toronto and

Hong Zhang in Minneapolis—three incredibly gifted Chinese brush painters and teachers.

Since 1998 I have been a weekly student of Hong Zhang, a native of Shanghai, schooled there and now living in Bloomington, Minnesota.

I have also had a long distance relationship with Chinese master Lok Tok (now deceased) and his son Yitong Lok.

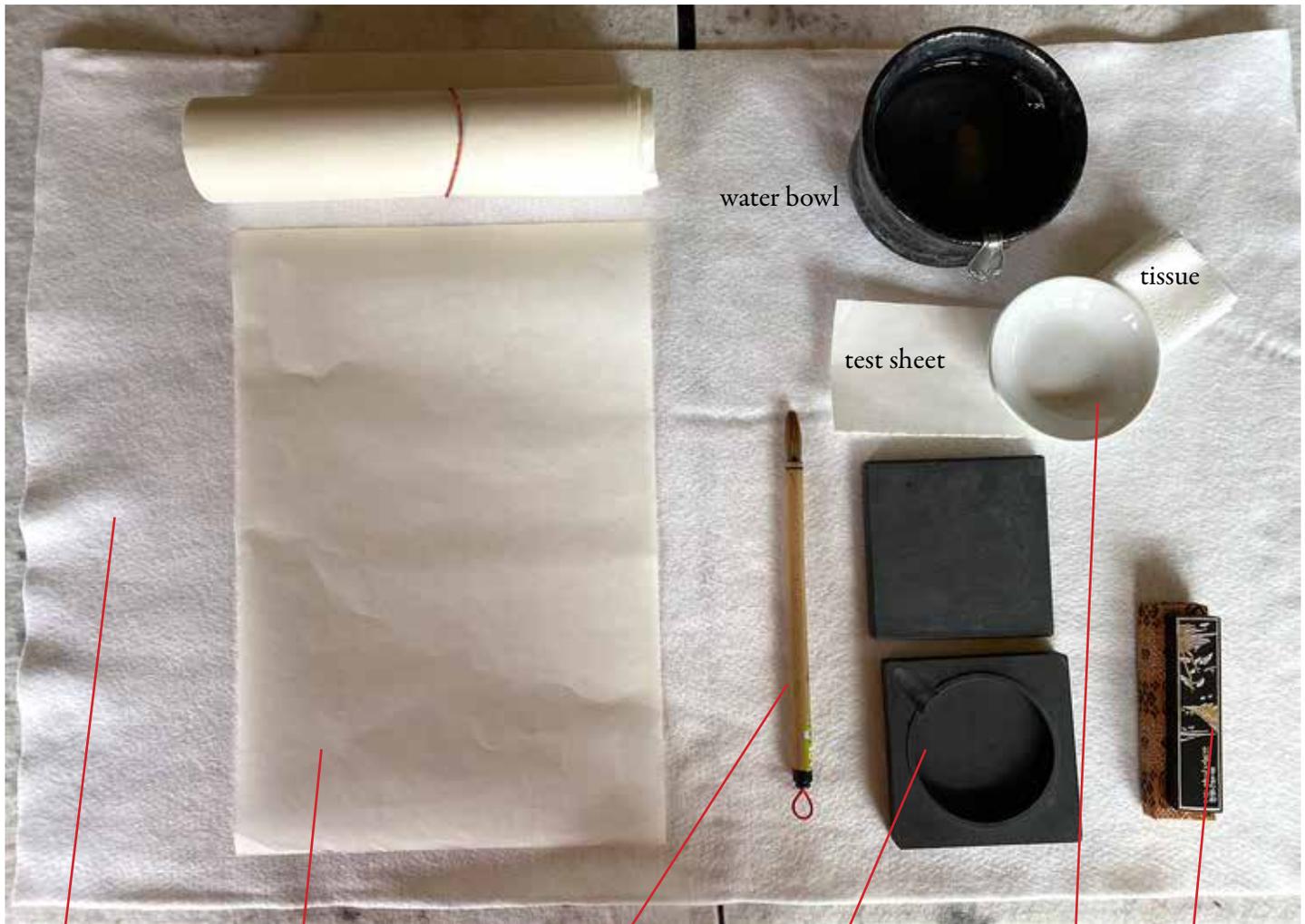
In 2001, all three of these teachers endorsed my beginning to teach Chinese painting to students here in Minneapolis.

Currently I have 40 students who before the COVID 19 pandemic came to my house for weekly instruction in Chinese calligraphy and paintings.

I also have a weekly painting practice.
To see more of my work, visit:

www/laughingwatersstudio.com

Beginner's set up: the four treasures



wool felt pad

1. raw xuan paper

2. medium wolf brush

3. ink stone

mixing dish

4. ink stick

A beginner's kit is available at the shop at Laughing Waters Studio. For pick up or by mail.

This includes a wool felt (approx 18"x24"), brush, ink stone, ink stick, mixing dish, and a roll of 24 sheets raw xuan paper (approx 8'5 x 11)

For pick up: \$85. Shipped: \$100.

To order: call 612 333-1881 or email bob@laughingwatersstudio.com

Individual items can also be ordered

Similar materials can also be purchased through reputable suppliers such as:

Oriental Art Supply (OAS)

orientalartsupply.com

(714) 969-4470

Blue Heron Arts Co.

www.blueheronarts.com

866-534-7116

the dance of the eye  and the hand 

Chinese brush painting



The experience
of life
transformed
into line



the dance of the eye  and the hand 

Figure 5: Comparison of the word “teach” (*jiao*) written in the Five Major Character Styles

**Ancient Chinese
Character Forms**



Oracle Bone Script (*Jia Gu Wen*)



Bell and Pot Script (*Zhong Ding Wen*)



Greater Seal Script (*Da Zhuan*)



**Modern Chinese
Character Forms**



Lesser Seal Style (*Zhuan Shu*)



Li Style (*Li Shu*)



Zhang Cao



Casual Style (*Cao Shu*)



Mad Casual (*Kuang Cao*)



Running Style (*Xing Shu*)



Running Casual (*Xing Cao*) Running Regular (*Xing Kai*)



Wei Bei



Regular Style (*Kai Shu*)

