

for beginning students

the dance



of the eye

and



the hand

fundamentals of Chinese brush painting by Bob Schmitt

lesson 8

- **dating your painting with Chinese numbers**
 - **model with stroke order: basic Li Script**

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

Chinese numbers

This lesson is focused on learning the basic Chinese numbers. This knowledge will allow one to be able make a more complete composition by adding the date to each piece of calligraphy painted.

At right are the Chinese numbers from one to ten. In addition are the characters for year, month and day.

For practice, begin by copying the model, simply practicing the individual numbers.

Then proceed to composing today's date.

Then try to compose your own birthdate.

Liù Six

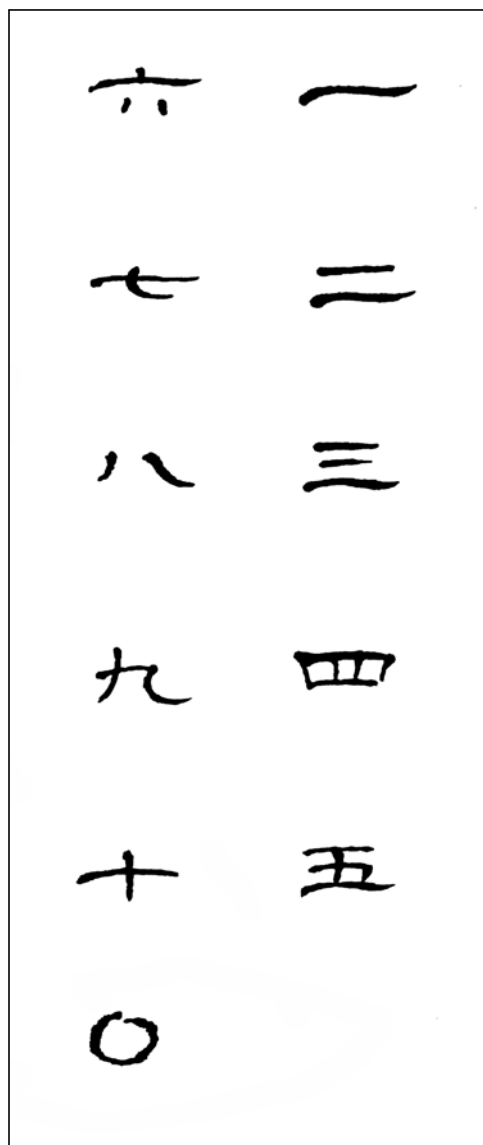
Qī Seven

Bā Eight

Jiǔ Nine

Shí Ten

Lín Zero



Yī One

Èr Two

Sān Three

Sì Four

Wǔ Five



Nián Year

Yuè Month

Rì Day

Counting beyond 10 in Chinese

When counting from 11 to 19, simply write the character for ten (shi) followed by the appropriate character from 1-9 (see example below for 11).

Beginning at 20, write the character for two (er), followed by the character for ten (see examples below for 20 and 30).

Counting beyond 20, proceed by adding the appropriate character below the character for 10 (see examples below for 21, 31).

10	20	30
十	二十	三十
11	21	31
十一	二十一	三十一

Composing the date

To write the date, begin with the four characters for the year, followed by the character for year (nian).

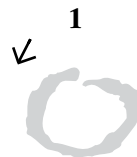
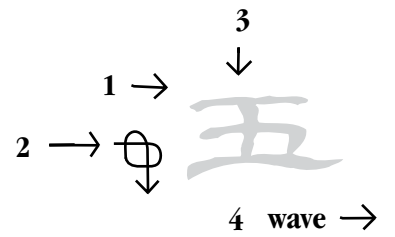
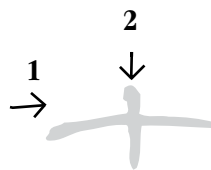
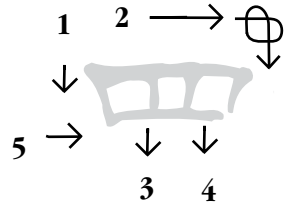
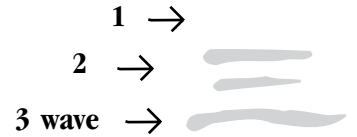
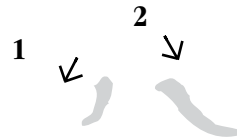
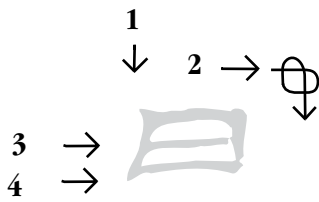
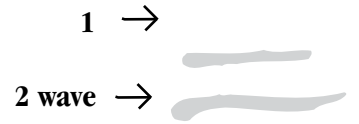
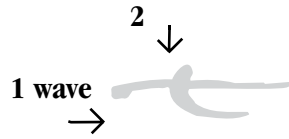
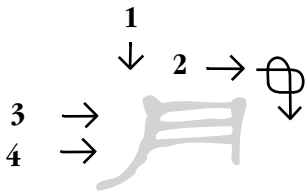
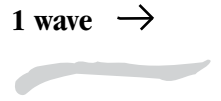
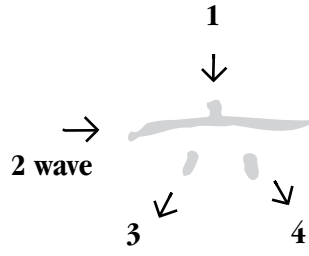
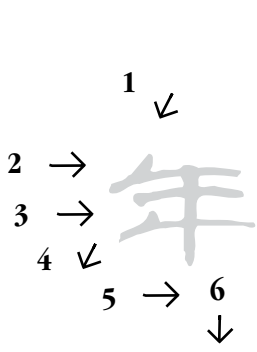
Then below that, place the characters for the number of the month, followed by the character for month (yue).

Then below that, place the characters for the number of the day, followed by the character for day (ri).





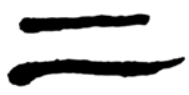








For example, September 22, 2020 would look like this:

2	二
0	〇
2	二
0	〇
year	年
—	
9	九
month	月
—	
2	二
x	十
10	
+	
2	二
day	日
—	

Numbers Stroke Order/Direction



Chinese Numbers and Dates

		<i>Liù</i> Six		<i>Yī</i> One	
<i>Nián</i> Year		<i>Qī</i> Seven		<i>Èr</i> Two	
		<i>Bā</i> Eight		<i>Sān</i> Three	
<i>Yuè</i> Month					
		<i>Jiǔ</i> Nine		<i>Sì</i> Four	
<i>Rì</i> Day					
		<i>Shí</i> Ten		<i>Wǔ</i> Five	
		<i>Lín</i> Zero	