

for continuing students

the dance



of the eye

and



the hand

more fundamentals of Chinese brush painting by Bob Schmitt

fall 2020 lesson 4

- **learning to paint mists**
- **variations in painting mists**

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

bob@laughingwatersstudio.com

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

Painting
mists
wet on dry
with dots:

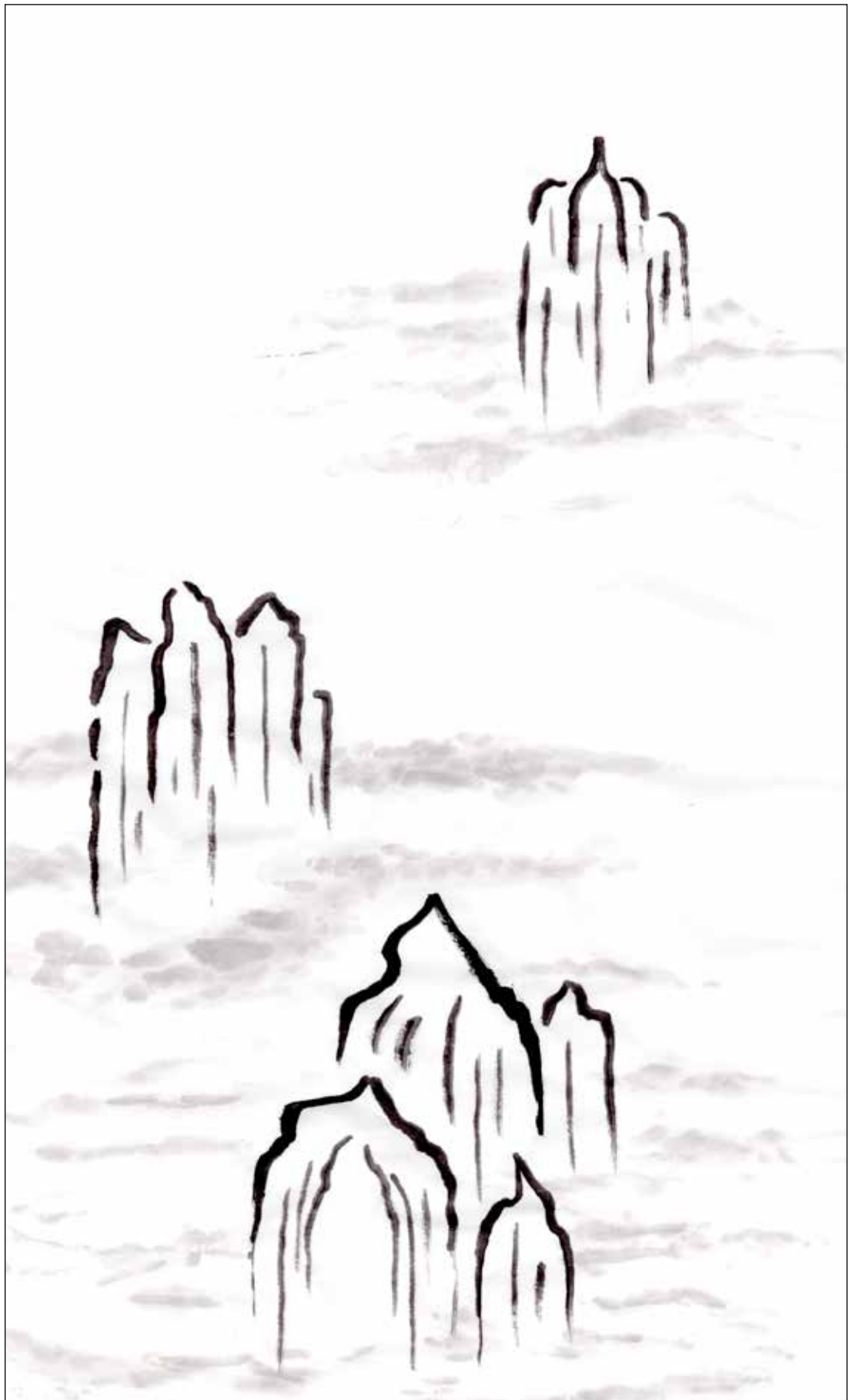
First paint the three
groups of mountain.

Then working from
3 pots of grays:
heavy gray, medium
gray and light gray,

Slowly build up the
shadows of the mists.

Let it completely dry.

Then refine as needed.



Painting mists

wet on wet:

First paint the three
groups of mountain.

Then wet the paper
totally with water.

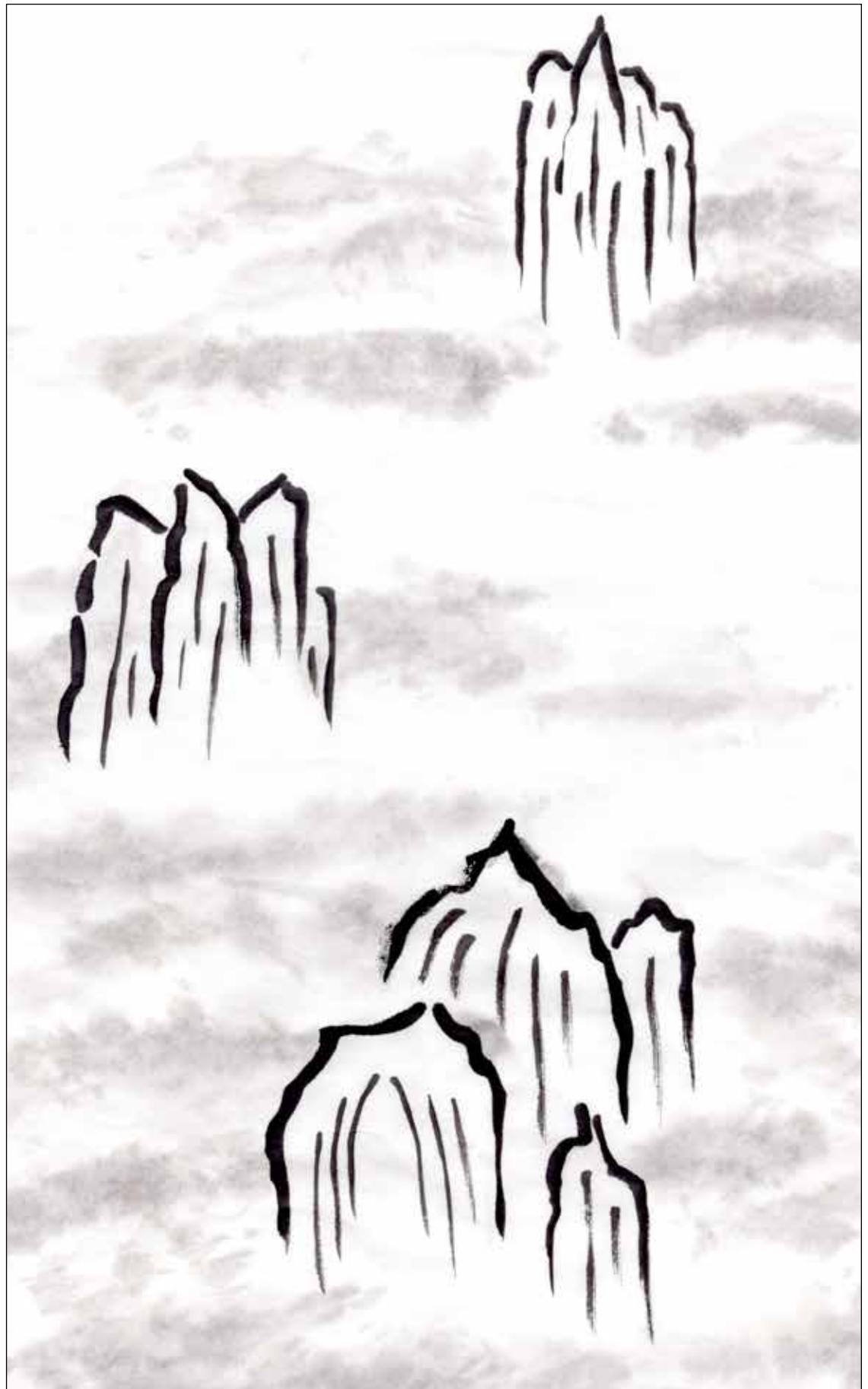
(option: use hake
brush if available)

Then working from
3 pots of grays:
heavy gray, medium
gray and light gray,

Slowly build up
the shadows of the
mists.

Let it completely
dry.

Then refine as
needed.



the dance of the eye  *and the hand* 

a model for painting mists



a model for painting mists

