CHARACTERISTICS OF INK PAINTING

Professor Lampo Leong, PhD

LIGHTING:

Ink Painting, also called Chinese Brush Painting, does not capture images in strong or harsh direct lighting with cast shadow. Images are usually portrayed either in flat and diffuse lighting from the front, or with back lighting where the light appears to be coming from within.

LINE & OUTLINE:

Chinese Brush Painting uses line and outline to shape images with little shading. Shading, when used, is not based on a light source.

COLOR:

Uses local color (color in flat and diffuse lighting situations), unlike the atmospheric color from direct or reflected light in classical Western painting (started in Renaissance, 1450-).

SHADING:

Based on structure: blend and bring outlines into inside structure.

Based on spacing:

1. Shading on lower area: use dark shading on the structure immediately behind and next to the line, and gradually lighten shading as it moves away from that line.
2. Shading on higher area: shading is floated at the center of a round object.

SHIFTING PERSPECTIVE:

Painting shows progression through time. It does not have a vanishing point and does not give the viewer a place to stand while looking at the picture.

ASYMMETRY COMPOSITION:

"S" curve flow. A rhythmic movement based on the Taoist's *Yin* and *Yang* Symbol.

CALLIGRAPHIC STROKE:

Stroke reflects elegance, energy and strength, while expressing the spirit of the artist.

STYLES AND TECHNIQUES:

Meticulous Style *(Gongbi):*	Outline and Color tinting application *(Xuanran)*
Brush Style *(Xieyi):*	Outline technique *(Goule)*
	Boneless technique *(Mogu,* image defined by color gradation)
	Wet on wet technique *(Pomo)*
	Layering technique *(Jimo)*
Texture Strokes *(Cunfa)*:	Rock formation in landscape painting

MATERIALS:

Brushes (firm or soft hair with pointed brush tip, elasticity)

Color (pigments derived from either plants or minerals, water-base pigments)

Rice-paper *(Xuanzi)* and Silk (absorbent and nonabsorbent / less absorbent rice-paper and silk)

Ink (made from soot of burnt tree)

CHINESE CALLIGRAPHY:

Seal script, clerical script, standard script, running script and cursive script.

MOUNTING FORMATS:

Hanging scroll (vertical painting)

Hand scroll (horizontal painting)

Album leaves (small work or sets of picture)

Fan-shaped album leaf