



# Teaching and Learning in Art Education 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed

Cultivating Students' Potential from Pre-K through High School

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## Bridging Cultures through Digital Art: When East Asian Ink Painting Techniques Meet the American Southwest Landscape Lesson Snapshot

By Ling-Yu Chou

University of Arizona Instructor, PhD Candidate in Art and Visual Culture Education

### Overview

This lesson aims to challenge traditional Eurocentric perspectives and promote inclusive understandings of art, valuing diverse viewpoints. Students will integrate traditional East Asian landscape painting techniques with the vibrant scenery of the American Southwest, focusing on ecological features, historical monuments, and architecture. They will analyze works by Arthur Wesley Dow and Georgia O'Keeffe, who created American Southwest landscape paintings.

The lesson begins by introducing students to East Asian art traditions, including rice paper, ink brushes, and Daoist aesthetics, emphasizing concepts such as 'S' shape composition, negative space, spirit resonance, and the flow of Qi (energy). Then, it teaches students about the artistic behavior of imagination and wonderment and how experimenting with these concepts can inform and transform their creative process as they study East Asian landscape painting techniques. The session concludes with a modern digital twist, as students use the Pixamotion app to animate their 2D artworks, creating movement within still images.

### Artistic Behavior

Imagination and Wonderment

### Essential/Guiding Questions

How do artists who combine traditional and digital media spark the artistic behavior of imagination and wonderment through experimentation, play, and the exchange of ideas? How might these practices enhance their critical thinking and problem-solving skills? Under which circumstances can such experiences cultivate a deeper respect for multicultural narratives in art education? Building on these ideas, how do you plan to integrate the artistic behavior of imagination and wonderment, diverse cultural perspectives, and digital methods into your own creative practices?

### Materials

**Traditional Materials:** Ink, ink brush, watercolor, palette, xuan paper (rice paper)

**Digital Tools:** Mobile device with the Pixamotion app installed

### Objectives

Students will:

- Summarize in their own words the fundamental techniques and traditional materials of East Asian painting.

- Identify at least 2 examples of how Daoist philosophy and aesthetics have influenced East Asian art.
- Answer the essential/guiding questions in their journals and share their reflections orally during a class discussion.
- Create an ink and watercolor painting based on observation that depicts the ecological and cultural features of the American Southwest.
- Use the Pixamotion app to animate their paintings, adding a dynamic element to their artwork.

## Procedures

### 1. Introduction to East Asian Landscape Painting

- The teacher will present an overview of East Asian landscape painting techniques and ask the class to reflect upon and share their written responses to the essential/guiding questions.
- Students will learn about traditional materials (rice paper, ink brushes, ink) and how they align with Daoist philosophy in art.
- Students will learn key artistic concepts such as 'S' shape composition, negative space, the flow of Qi, and spirit resonance are introduced through visual examples.

### 2. Exploring the Southwestern Landscape in Art

- Students will examine the art history of the American Southwest, analyzing works by Arthur Wesley Dow and Georgia O'Keeffe.
- As part of a class discussion, they will answer: How do different cultural perspectives shape artistic representations of nature?

### 3. Demonstration and Artistic Creation

- The teacher will demonstrate ink brush techniques on rice paper, showing how to apply 'S' shape composition and other Daoist principles.
- Students will create their own landscape paintings, blending East Asian techniques with Southwestern scenery (e.g., desert plants, historical monuments, architecture).

### 4. Animating the Artwork with Pixamotion

Students will:

- Access the Pixamotion app on their class tablet or download it to their mobile device.
- Tap Create New and import or capture an image of the completed artwork.
- Crop the image to focus on the artwork.
- Select Animate > Motion and draw arrows to indicate the movement direction.
- Use the Pin tool to prevent unwanted motion in specific areas.
- Tap Export, select animation settings, and save the final animated piece.

### 5. Reflective Closure

- Students will present their animated artworks and discuss how traditional techniques and digital tools can work together.

- Students will participate in a class discussion to explore how cultural traditions can evolve through technology and digital art.
- Students will discuss how they applied the artistic behavior of imagination and wonderment as they learned traditional East Asian landscape painting techniques and worked with the Pixamotion app.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

- Self-Evaluation and Peer Evaluation (using a checklist)
- Final Artwork Assessment (creativity, understanding of East Asian aesthetics, technique, and animation)
- Reflection Paper (students describe their experience blending cultural traditions and digital methods)