

Art from China



Shen Zhou, *Poet on a Mountaintop*, late 15th century



Shen Zhou, *Autumn Colors among Streams and Mountains*, ca. 1490-1500

Here is some art from China, they are called Chinese brush paintings. They are from the Ming Dynasty, a time in Chinese history between 1368 to 1644. Brush paintings have several things in common:

1. Artists usually used only black ink. To make lighter areas, they would add water.
2. They used the same variety of different types of brushstrokes.

3. People are shown very small in comparison with nature. This connects to the Buddhist belief of living in harmony with nature.
4. Artists did not paint the landscapes as they looked. They used their own self-expression and creativity to make their picture.

Task:

Can you paint your own version of a black and white brush painting? Maybe it could be of a real hill or mountain, you could do the Malvern Hills or Mount Everest it's up to you!