

Family Art Time Plum Blossom Scroll



Moon and Plum Blossoms. Okamoto Toyohiko, 1773-1845. Japan, Edo periods, 19th century. Hanging scroll, ink, and colors on silk. On loan from the Catherine and Thomas Edson Collection. I .2006.16.60

Look-

- Take a close look at the simplicity and elegance of the outdoor scene painted on this silk scroll. What is the artist showing us? What is the artist not showing us? What do you think about just seeing a branch instead of the entire tree in this painting?
- Imagine you are outside on a moonlit night with flowering trees. What would you see? What sounds do you think you would hear? What might the night air feel like? What season do you think it is?

Think-

In this scroll, we can see the moon and a flowering plum tree branch along with a poem written in Japanese cursive script. Japanese plum trees usually bloom early in winter when there is still snow, which signifies the coming spring. Their delicate blossoms resist the force of the winter weather, making them a beautiful metaphor for those who can withstand difficult times in life.

Make-

You can make your own flowering branch painting with your family at home by selecting a flowering tree that you would like to interpret in your art. What kind of trees bloom where you live? What season do they bloom? Do some research to help you choose the kind flowering tree branch you will paint.





What You Will Need:

- Watercolor paper
- Pencil
- Circle stencil
- White crayon
- Watercolor paint
- Paint brush
- Water/bowl
- Black ink or acrylic paint
- Straw
- Scissors
- Tissue paper
- Glue
- Pipe-cleaner or string
- Blow dryer (optional)

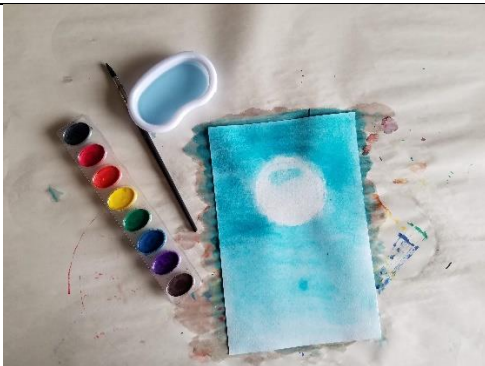
How To Do This Activity



1. Gather all the supplies you will need to complete this activity.



2. Using the stencil and pencil, trace a circle or the shape you would like for the moon on the watercolor paper in the center. Color in the circle or crescent shape with the white crayon.



3. Brush over the entire watercolor paper with wet watercolor paint. Watch how the wax in the crayon resists the watercolor! Let the paint dry.



4. Dab a drop of black ink or diluted acrylic paint at the bottom of the paper. Blow the black ink with a straw to create organic tree limbs and branches. Let the ink dry.



5. Cut several small tissue paper squares with scissors. Wrap a small square to the eraser end of a pencil. Dab several dots of glue on your tree branches. Place the wrapped pencil end on the glue dots. Let glue dry.



6. Display your flowering tree branch painting on the wall – will you place your branch horizontally or vertically? Enjoy your finished work of art.

Connect-

We recommend reading *Thank you, Miyuki* by Roxane Marie Galliez (Author) and Seng Soun Ratanavanh (Illustrator). This book introduces the curious reader to meditation and Japanese patterns.

Share with us –

Have fun and share your creations with us!



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