

# Art A Day

## CHALLENGE: Passion & Poetry for Nature

Looking at traditional Chinese landscape painting

### Washington County Museum of Fine Arts

We challenge you to an art activity each day of the School Closure! If you decide to complete this challenge, share it with us in the comments and on Instagram @WCMFA and use the hashtag #ARTaDayCHALLENGE

Poem from *Landscape with Mountains and Valley*, Yue

INSPIRED TO HAVE A DAYTRIP TO EXPLORE THE QUIET NATURE,  
CLIMBED THE DIFFICULT PATH TO RIDGES,  
WADED ACROSS VALLEY STREAMS,  
OBSERVED THE FOREST MIDST CLOUDS AND THOUSANDS OF MILES  
OF MOUNTAINS.  
DECEMBER, FIRST YEAR OF HORSE,  
SKETCHED USING SHIGU'S METHOD,  
FOR MY DEAR FRIEND MOZHAI,

**Stuff you'll need: Read through the challenge to decide...the materials you use are up to you!**

### Words you need to know:

**Literati painting** is a painting that includes a poem to describe the artist's state of mind, sentiment, and emotions felt while creating the work of art.

**Landscape painting** is a painting that shows land. This usually includes the natural world with the sky, mountains, streams, trees, the ground, etc.



Yue Yang (Chinese, active ca. late 18<sup>th</sup>-early 19<sup>th</sup> century)

*Landscape with Mountains and Valley*, Qing Dynasty, December 1774

(December in the First Year of the Horse, Chinese lunar calendar)

India ink on silk

Collection of Museum of Fine Arts-Washington County

Gift of Dr. James R. Duke, 2000

**LOOK** at this painting on a scroll of silk. This painting was created by Yue Yang in China in 1774 and was created using India ink on silk fabric. When creating *Landscape with Mountains and Valley*, Yue Yang was inspired by the methods and techniques of an artist that he looked up to named Wang Hui (Shigu, 1632-1717). In this style, artists create landscapes that include many memories of places and ideas in one painting. To make sure viewers understand the artist's state of mind and emotions expressed in the painting, artists would write a poem in the landscape painting. We call this a **literati painting**. Areas were left empty with plans for a poem to make sure the composition was balanced even with a poem included. Read Yue Yang's poem that has been translated above.

**THINK** about places you have been, places you would like to go, memories, places you have dreamt about or places you were told about. Maybe you are thinking about your yard, a vacation, your ancestor's homeland, a scene from a movie, or something you read about in a book. Think about what feeling it gave you, the time of year, the weather, and your state of mind when you remember/imagine visiting this place.

**MAKE** a **literati landscape** painting. Create your landscape by combining memories of trees, rocks, streams, hills, buildings, etc. Remember that it doesn't have to be a perfect recollection. Most likely, you will naturally include objects that were most important to you. For example, you might not remember every tree, but you will probably remember the tree you climbed. Leave an open space for a poem. See the Writing Extension below for poetry inspiration.

**Writing Extension:** Write a short poem to describe the state of mind you are in when you are in this place. Describe how it feels to be there, the time of year you were there the weather when you were there, the sounds you heard, etc. **SHARE YOUR WORK!**

**TAG US!**

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