

Exploring Chinese Landscape and Making Your Own Scroll

This activity will guide you on how to create a nature scene inspired by Bian Shoumin's *Wild Geese Descending on a Sandbank*.

Time: 30–45 minutes

Difficulty level: Moderate

Messy level: Moderate



Investigate the Work of Art!

1. A hanging painting that can be unrolled is called a scroll. The art of Chinese scroll painting dates back over 4,000 years. This hanging scroll painting, mounted on silk and measuring over eight feet long, is meant to be viewed all at once. Describe the different parts of this artwork from top to bottom.
2. Why do you think the artist included so much blank space between the bottom portion of the painted scene and the goose in the upper corner?
3. The artist's style is naturalistic, and he uses strokes of varying tones to form the birds. Where does he use dark brushstrokes?

To view a hi-res image of the work, visit the [MFAH Collection online database](#).

Let's Make Some Art!

Gather These Art Materials

- Two sheets of white paper, taped together on the short end
- Construction paper cut into two strips, the same length as the short end of the white paper
- Thick and thin washable black markers
- Small paintbrush or Q-tip
- Water cup
- Thin ribbon or string
- Regular hole punch
- Pencil and eraser
- Glue stick

Step-by-Step Artist Instructions

1. Sketch a landscape on your white paper.
2. Draw over your pencil sketch with a black marker. As you draw, brush a small amount of water with a paintbrush or Q-tip over the black lines, creating the effect of ink.
3. Use a thinner marker or black pen to fill in smaller details in your landscape, such as branches or small flowers.
4. Choose two pieces of construction paper—they can be matching or different colors—and glue these two pages together. Then glue your white paper on top.
5. Make two holes in the top construction paper.
6. Tie the ribbon through the top holes to hang your scroll.

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Bian Shoumin, *Wild Geese Descending on a Sandbank*, 1730, hanging scroll, ink, and color on paper, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, museum purchase funded by the Alice Pratt Brown Museum Fund, 90.513.