

Chinese Painting of Spring Flowers

Artist's Statement

These images were created during the Spring 2024 term for *Chinese Calligraphy: Culture and Skills*, and I was inspired by both the concept of coming of age and the ephemeral nature of my final semester. Initially, it was meant to be my final project. However, professor Haixia Wang encouraged me to push beyond the limitations of class rules. Thus, I had more opportunities to explore types of paper, color, and stroke usage.

Even though my primary medium was ink, I also explored watercolor, and found my chosen type of paper to be most novel. We learned in readings that, historically, the Four Treasures of Chinese Calligraphy are ink, brush, paper, and inkstone. Each treasure could be just as diverse, and hold as much variance, as the other. I realized this when I selected rounded Xuan paper for the first time: a form of raw rice paper that is often meant for mounting. The absorption of the ink differed greatly, and the presentation changed as well. I found meaning in these small nuances when creating each work.

In class, we discussed the practice of Chinese Calligraphy as a form of mental meditation; I felt that my peace of mind alongside the style of brushstrokes utilized within the piece, helped accentuate the fluidness and texture of the traditional painting style.

What I appreciated most about these works, however, is that it acts as both memorabilia for me and art to others. I enjoyed replicating this process in many future pieces, and it became a form of gift giving to my professor, my family, and friends.

Thank you to my professor, Haixia Wang, for providing me with additional resources and encouraging me to go beyond expectations.

- Shannon Lin