

Chinese Arts and Crafts

**11:00- 11:50am Sunday
Northwestern University**

Course Description:

This enrichment class focuses on Chinese painting as well as paper crafts such as origami and Chinese paper art.

Instructor: Mrs. Liya Wang

Mrs. Liya Wang has been teaching art classes in China since 1980 and has taught at Xilin NU Chinese School art classes since 1995. She took courses in Beijing's respected Zhong Yang Art Academy and specializes in oil painting, sketching, and Chinese painting.

Chinese Painting

Chinese painting is a form of Chinese art, which dates back to the 2nd Century BC. This art form began in the Tang Dynasty (618-927) where Aristocrats and scholars painted during their leisure time. It was during this age in China that calligraphy was very popular and Chinese painting is an extension of that. The process involves using brushes made out of animal hair and ink made out of pine soot and animal glue. These paintings were originally done on silk but during the 1st century when paper was invented, silk was discontinued due to the high cost. There are many different objects that are commonly painted. Those include landscapes, flowers and animals.

Origami

Many historians believe that the art of origami actually originated in China instead of Japan. It is known as “zhe zhi” which has the literal meaning of “folding paper”. In China it was traditionally used as entertainment for kids, however the Japanese took this art form and added different techniques for this art form. In this course, we will focus on folding easy items and learning the basic techniques of this ancient art form.



Chinese Paper Art

Chinese Paper Art has existed for thousands of years and dates back to when paper was invented during the 1st century. This art form was most popular during the Qing Dynasty, the last dynasty in China's history. It involves cutting paper with scissors to create images and designs for decoration. A common time for people to make paper cuts is during the New Years Festival in February where people hang their paper cuts on doors and windows to bring good luck.

