

TIME & PLACE

A Student Activity Guide based on the exhibition

MEDITATION IN CONTEMPORARY CHINESE LANDSCAPE

October 15 to December 6, 2008



Figures 1 and 2 (Left to Right): Arnold CHANG (ZHANG Hong), *Landscape*, Hanging scroll, ink on paper, 55 1/2 x 29 in., Courtesy of the Artist; CUI Fei, *Read by Touch*, 2005-2006, Thorns on rice paper, 9-1/4" x 10-3/4" each page, total 11 pages, Courtesy of the Artist.

Godwin-Ternbach Museum
Queens College, CUNY
Curated by Luchia M. H. Lee

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1 PRE-MUSEUM ACTIVITY

LANDSCAPES: JOURNEYS THROUGH TIME

LOOK AND DISCUSS

For centuries, artists have been creating **landscapes** that show a place and time in history. The works of art in this exhibition were created by 12 **contemporary artists** in China - Beijing, Taiwan, and Malaysia. Did you know that Queens has the second largest Asian population in the United States?

COMPARE & CONTRAST: LANDSCAPES OF A CHANGING WORLD

Technology is a huge part of the world we live in. In the 21st century, nature lives alongside emails and iPods. China, like many modern countries, has been greatly affected by advances in technology and so have artists' landscapes of China.

How are Figs. 1 and 2 different? How are they similar? Which is more **realistic**? More **abstract**? What **media** do you think they are? What do you see that makes you say that? Do you think Fig. 2 is a **landscape**? Why or why not?

CREATE: SCROLL LANDSCAPE

Fig. 1 was made with ink on paper and is a **scroll**. Its traditional Chinese style gives the feeling of a journey or time passing. Our eyes gradually move up through the painting.

Create your own scroll landscape. Brainstorm what environment (forest, desert), season, and time of day you will show. If desired, draw a **horizon line** high on the paper, allowing the viewer to "travel" through your work of art. Use **media** of your choice (Fig. 4 was created with watercolors.) Finally, glue a cardboard tube, dowel, or straw to the top and bottom to imitate the look of a scroll.



Fig. 4

landscape: A work of art that shows an outdoor place.

contemporary artist: An artist who is living and working today.

realistic: A work of art that has recognizable features and resembles the real world.

abstract: A work of art about color, shape, and line and does not resemble the real world.

medium (media): Material(s) used to create a work of art.

horizon line: The line where the land (or sea) meets the sky in a **landscape**.

installation: A work of art that is physically installed, or arranged, by the artist or assistants.

repetition: The repeating of an element (**shape**, color, line, etc.) over and over again.

composition: The arrangement or placement of elements in a work of art.

form: A **three-dimensional** (not flat) or **two-dimensional** (flat) **shape**.

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IN-MUSEUM ACTIVITY MIXED-MEDIA MATCHING & REPETITIVE LANDSCAPE

LOOK AND DISCUSS

Many of the works of art in this exhibition use technology, **mixed-media**, and **repetition**. How many works of art can you find that use technology? What types of technology do they use?

MIXED-MEDIA MATCHING

How many different materials can you find in the **mixed-media** works of art? Find the artworks below and draw a line between their titles with their media.

2050 Queens

Read by Touch

Morning Dew

Fish on Air

Plastic, night light materials

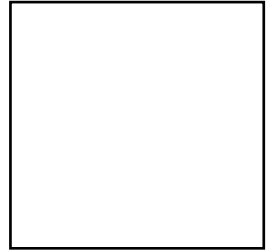
Clay, wood, fish line

Thorns on rice paper

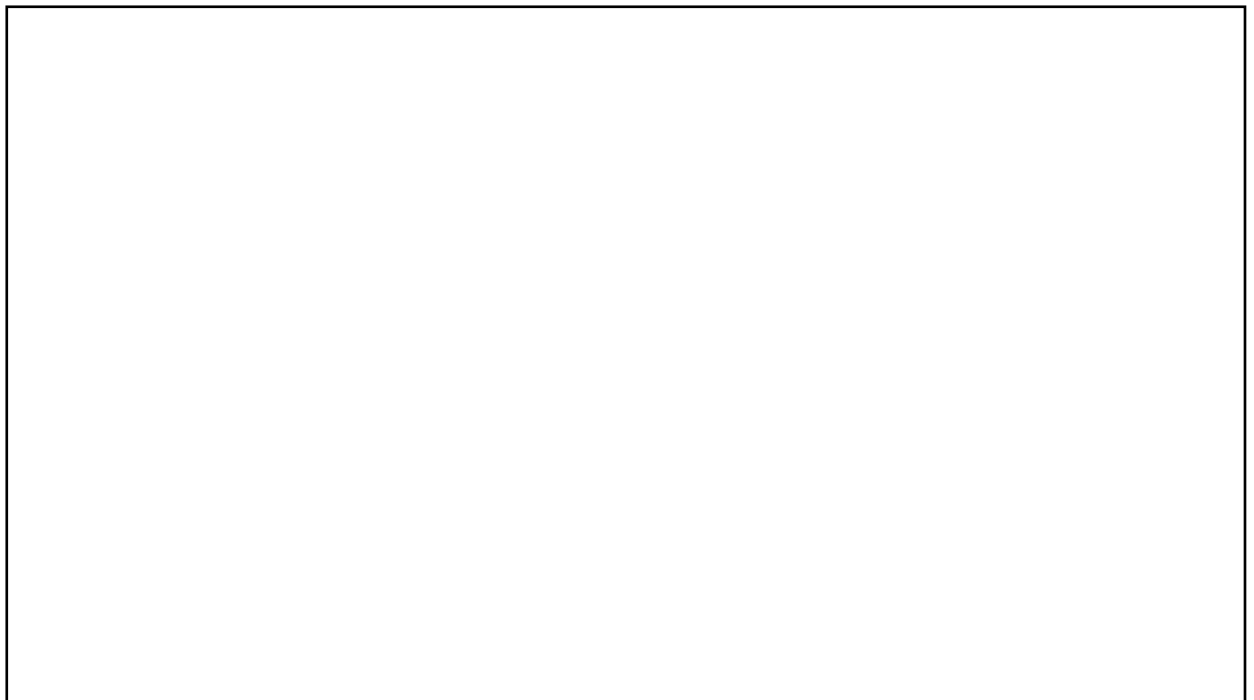
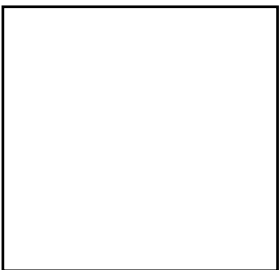
Bowls, chopsticks, video

CREATE: REPETITIVE LANDSCAPE

Find a work of art that uses **repetition**. Draw a picture of what you see repeating in the box on the right. How many times does the **shape** or **form** repeat? How are they arranged (i.e. overlapping, rows/columns, line, shape)?



Draw a detail that you might find in a realistic landscape in the small box below (i.e. tree, rock, sun). **HINT:** Keep it simple! Draw a repetitive landscape using this shape over and over. (If you like, cut it out with **scissors** and use it as a stencil. Think about **composition**. How will you arrange your shapes? Finally, add color to your landscape and use your imagination!



3

POST-MUSEUM ACTIVITY: COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY LANDSCAPE INSTALLATION

LOOK AND DISCUSS

Landscapes do not always show the physical characteristics of a place. Artists may instead choose to show a place by focusing on a detail of the culture of the people who live there. For example, in *2050 Queens* (Fig. 5), the artist included bowls of rice and chopsticks. Why do you think he did this? How do these items relate to the country he is representing? What would you use to represent the United States? What made you choose this?



Fig. 5: Chee Wang Ng, *I Ching Hexagram - Inner Truth*, 2008, Mixed-media - Single-channel video installation with audio, Courtesy of the artist.

BRAINSTORM: YOUR COMMUNITY'S LANDSCAPE

Every community has its own landscape - people, places, and cultures that make it unique. Brainstorm as a class what makes your community unique. Create a list of words that you feel describe its landscape (i.e. foods, sports, animals, languages). Based on these words, decide as a group what aspect(s) of your community your installation will focus on.

PLAN AND BUILD YOUR INSTALLATION

This process is quite different from creating a traditional painting, drawing, or sculpture. First, decide where your installation will be displayed (hallway, display case, classroom). Measure and divide the space by how many students will be contributing.

Decide what materials you will use. In the Museum, some artists used found objects, while others created the items. Have each student create or bring in one object or item that fits into the theme of the installation. If desired, you may also create a **two-dimensional** backdrop for your installation that relates to the theme or shows your community's physical landscape. If possible, you may also use technology. Use your imagination!

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