

DAN JIAN

The Bow Whispers to the Arrow



STICK WEAVING

Duration: 1 hour

MATERIALS NEEDED

1. Black and white charcoal sticks and/or pencils
2. Transfer paper
3. Water
4. Pencils
5. Scissors
6. Glue
7. Watercolor or mixed-media paper

INTRODUCTION

- Dan Jian utilizes charcoal sticks and pencils in a majority of her works. The opacity of charcoal can be altered by adding water to charcoal dust or markings. This technique creates ink-like drawings or markings.
- Take some time with *The Bow Whispers to the Arrow*. What do you notice about the landscape? Who is featured? What is happening?
 - *Hand Thee*, *Untitled*, *Untitled*, *The Room* and *A Game* are sort of vignettes taken from the larger story of *The Bow Whisper to the Arrow*. Spend some time with these works and consider the stories and significance of each. How are these works in conversation with each other? What is similar? What is different? What do the titles tell us about what is going on in the artworks?
- These landscape paintings will respond to her work *The Bow Whispers to the Arrow* which can be described as an ongoing saga. How do you see yourself in the story?

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Spend some time with works by Dan Jian. *What do you notice about the materials? The composition of the artworks?*
2. After spending time with her works, think about what story you would add to *The Bow Whispers to the Arrow*. *Will your story be an addition to one of her vignettes? Will this be a new story with relevance to your life? How can you combine the stories Jian is telling with one of your own?*
3. Using some transfer paper and a charcoal or regular pencil, create images you will use in your story. These can be animals, people, plants, or a building you saw on the way to the gallery.
4. If you have a landscape that you would like to draw inspiration from, you can pull it up on a screen and use the transfer paper to take elements from it.
5. Optional: Choose a single color pencil to add a different element to your story. If you decide to do this, try to make only one object in color.
6. Continue to make images with the transfer paper and pencils. Once you are finished, cut your images out and set them aside.
7. Once you have finished, allow your watercolor to dry then take your cutouts from the beginning.
8. Begin to layer your cutouts onto your watercolor paper. Think about how the layers interact with each other and the story you are wanting to tell. Glue down your cutouts when you are satisfied with the placement.



Suggested artworks:



The Bow Whispers to the Arrow, 2023



Hand Thee, 2023



Untitled, 2023



Untitled, 2023



The Room, 2023



A Game, 2022