



Think Ink!

Activity inspired by the exhibition *A New Horizon: Contemporary Chinese Art*

- **Have you ever painted in ink?**
- **What would your name look like as a Chinese symbol?**

Kids in the discovery space over the summer school holidays were inspired by the contemporary Chinese art in A New Horizon. Like the artists in the exhibition, children painted their own artworks using red and black ink. The ink was applied using all sorts of tools such as sponges, brushes, spray bottles and even chopsticks! Children also practised writing their names in the style of a Chinese symbol and made a name badge.

Chinese inspired ink painting and name symbol

What you will need:

Apron

Paper (good thick paper is the best, but you can use any paper)

Contrasting ink such as red and black (or watered down paint)

Trays or plates for the ink

Water

Brushes / sponges / wooden chopsticks / spray bottles (anything that can be used to make marks with ink)

Thick black texta

Brooch back or plastic convention card holder with pin (optional)

What to do (Ink Painting):

It's a great idea to draw inspiration from Chinese art. See if you can find some art books or images on the internet or check out images of *A New Horizon* from the National Museum of Australia website. Think about what you might want to paint, but don't think too long, ink often flows freely and makes a picture or pattern before your eyes.

Put on your apron or wear clothes you don't mind getting messy. It is good if an adult can help get you started as you need to be careful of spilling it. Use the tools to apply the ink. See how it flows with sponges. Notice how the colour fades if you add more water to the

ink. Use sticks to apply dots or thin lines. Spray a contrasting colour to create another interesting effect. Let the ink run off the paper to see even more cool effects.

What to do (Chinese Character Name):

Have a look at picture books or internet images of Chinese characters. Notice how many are shaped like a triangle or square. Can you write your name so it looks like a Chinese symbol? Experiment with making one letter of your name large and stacking the other letters of your name under or next to it. Play around until it looks right. When you are done go over it with a thick black texta and if you like, turn it into a name badge.

Have fun! We'd love to see your results.

