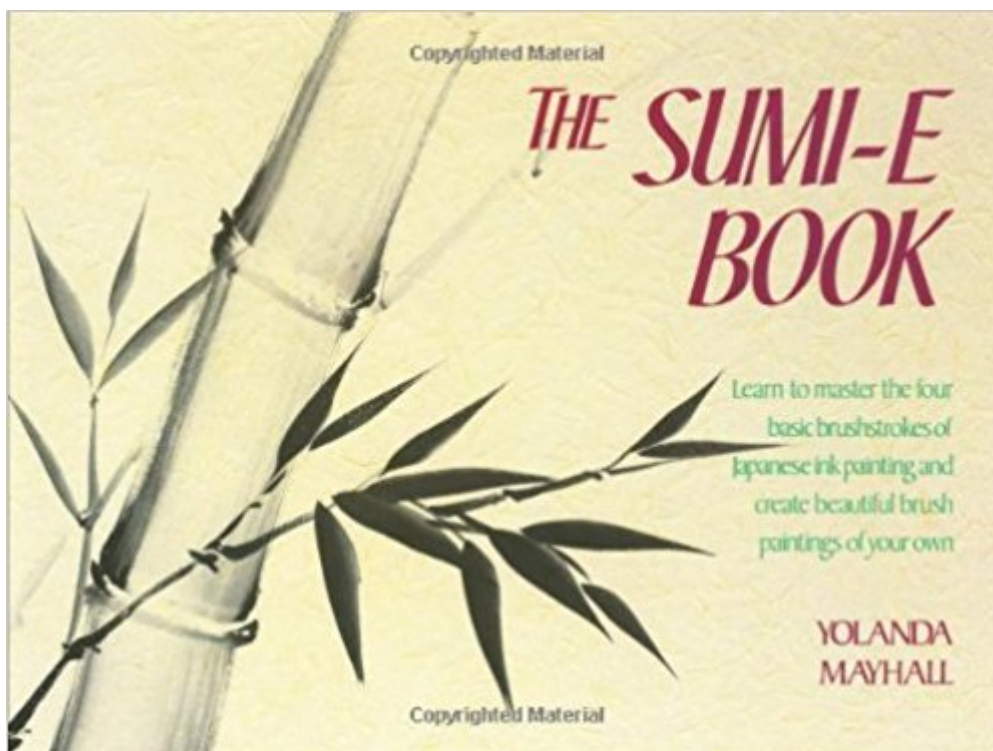


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# The Sumi-E Book



## Synopsis

This ancient Japanese technique is ideal for teaching art to the beginner because the student is quickly able to create successful pictures with four basic brushstrokes. Mastery of Sumi-e leads to new levels of creativity.

## Book Information

Paperback: 128 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 65 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #309,878 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #231 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Painting > Watercolor #1281 in Books > Arts & Photography > History & Criticism > Criticism

## Customer Reviews

Yolanda Mayhall (1926-2011) was born in New York City and went on to serve as a cartographer during World War II. After the war, she spent years studying the Japanese brush painting style known as *sumi-e* with renowned masters Takeuchi and Saito. She participated in many art exhibits worldwide, including galleries in Washington, DC, and Florida.

The demonstrated strokes were a little unclear to me? If you are looking for inspiration, or looking to see what is possible, then this is an excellent book. However, as an absolute beginner, it wasn't clear (to me) how these brush strokes are achieved by just reading about them? Brush strokes are explained in brief, cursory sentences, followed by many beautiful examples of what can be done with them. My problem was trying to duplicate these brush strokes with instructions like "hold the brush flat and twist it". What does that mean? It would have been helpful if there had been more examples of how to actually achieve the brush-strokes:) But the emphasis is on what you can do with the brush AFTER you know how to hold it. If you already know how to paint or draw a little, you will probably be fine. If, on the other hand, you're like me (heaven forbid) you might get more out of actually SEEING brush strokes performed than merely reading about them? If it wasn't for YouTube... I still

wouldn't know what the author meant by "Start at the bottom and paint upward, Press, Lift and Pull, Press again..." (quote from page 23) This is a great book, and I am not criticizing, I'm just saying one video is worth 1000 words :) EDIT: Since first making these comments, I have ordered the companion DVD titled "A Sumi-e Dream Journey" which demonstrates all the brush strokes in the book with absolute clarity. Everything becomes crystal clear when you can actually see how strokes are written on the paper. And with the aid of Yolanda's DVD it is now my opinion that this book is as good as many reviews claim! The DVD isn't listed as a companion to the book... but is based on it and should be. It sure helped this beginner :)

I've enjoyed this Japanese Sumi-E Book oh so very much. Enlightening! I started with Chinese one stroke painting in 2003 which gives me a good start on the Japanese style. I'm most intrigued with the step by instructions & diverse pictures. Am excited that the book is extensive in knowledge and details. I purchased 200 feet of rice paper along with Chinese colour inks. I have a large quantity of black Indian ink which is helpful along with my Chinese one stroke art set and a beautiful set of brushes. Now it's up to me. I was pleasantly surprised when the book arrived so quickly,, less than a week from the time I ordered. WOW!!! Love that! And my 200 feet of rice paper came the same day! The writer/artist of this book not only knows how to instruct, but shows you wonderful pictures, not just parts, but finished works of the pieces. I'm very excited about getting back to one stroke artwork. The 12 pieces I finished were, well, I felt good enough to post them on social media & had great reviews. Now have offers coming in. Thank you and The Sumo-E Book for helping open yet another window for me. Peace

Great book if you want to try to create specific things like birds, bamboo leaves, etc. But, traditional sumi-e is much more complex than what this book offers. Traditional sumi-e involves more in depth processing, meditation, brush stroke practice and understanding the history of different forms of sumi-e and its strokes. However, if one wants to feel like one has accomplished a particular "thing" such as a bird, bamboo leaf, etc., then this book is very helpful.

She doesn't go to in depth about materials. For instance: she says steer clear of mixed hair brushes but she doesn't explain why. The explanations on how to paint are as about in depth as a book could be. It is only lessons for black ink but that's what I expected. What does stand out is the quality of the paper. It is very thick with a unique texture, almost as if the book was made of high quality drawing paper and the pictures are fantastic.

This is an excellent book for beginners and intermediate painters of Japanese ink Zen painting, teaching basic strokes and rules of the style of Japanese "Zen" painting. Keep in mind that you learn to make pictures from your mind, and you only get one stroke at a time, with no corrections. The book covers basic stroke (there are four), wild orchid, chrysanthemum, plum branch and four different animals. The traditional painting is done in black and white (the absence of color emphasizes line, shading and emotion...the thinking being that it was more challenging than color and required more discipline). So keep in mind you are learning basic strokes and lines and there are no items that are done in color.

My favorite beginners book about how to use a Chinese brush for painting, although it is Sumi-e which is Japanese version of the art.

This book is just what I need to teach myself the art of Asian painting

Purchased directly from . I first found this book at my local library, and was glad to have found it here on , where I purchased it. The book arrived in clean, new condition, with no damage nor remainder marks (a good thing, because my past few books from here have been remainders -- not good for gifts). Anyhoo, I like that The Sumi-e Book has detailed, step-by-step instructions, starting with a single bamboo leaf (important, because many images incorporate these strokes). It would have been nice to have a sturdier coverpage, but overall, was pleased with this retail version of The Sumi-e Book.

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