

# Chinese Art

## Dumplings: Saturday, October 21, 2006

### Lotus Flowers

The lotus (sea-rose) is one of the most painted flowers in Chinese culture. It is the symbol of purity because it comes out of dark muddy waters but is not soiled itself. The words for lotus in Chinese have the same meanings as “to bind or connect” (such as in marriage), “one after the other,” “uninterrupted,” “to love,” and “modesty.” Chinese paintings with lotuses are typically very elegantly painted and many include birds or fish.

### Paper Cuts

Paper cuts came about in the 6th century when women used to paste gold and silver foil cuttings onto their hair at their temples and men used them in sacred rituals. Artists first design the pattern, workers then cut the pattern precisely through a pile of thin rice paper and then paint them. Paper cuts are regularly used during festivities as decorations.



### Chinese Calligraphy

Chinese calligraphy (Brush calligraphy) is an art unique to Asian cultures, and is often thought to be most revealing of one's personality. Ink blots and dry brush strokes are viewed as a natural expression rather than a fault, and are all considered part of a mental exercise that coordinates the mind and the body.



### Schedule

- 10:30-10:40 Welcome: Arrival, Nametags
- 10:40-10:50 Game Time!
- 10:50-11:05 A Glimpse into Chinese Art
- 11:05-11:40 Calligraphy, Paper Cuts, and Lotus Flowers
- 11:40-11:50 Snack Time
- 11:50-12:00 Closing Circle: Show and Tell!

### Learn Chinese!

艺术	yi shu	Art
书法	shu fa	Calligraphy
剪纸	jian zhi	Paper Cuts
莲花	lian hua	Lotus