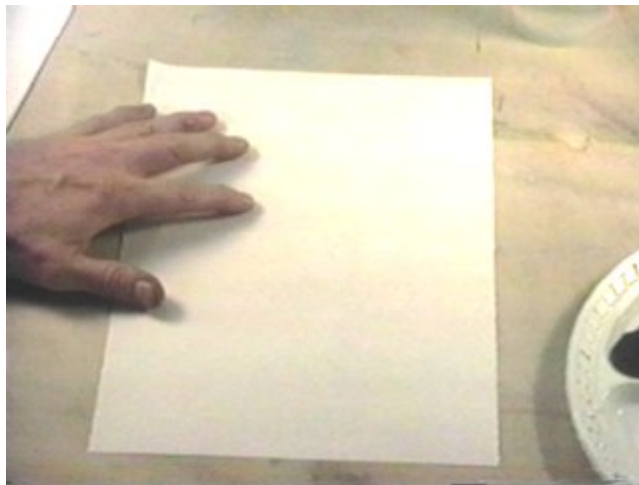




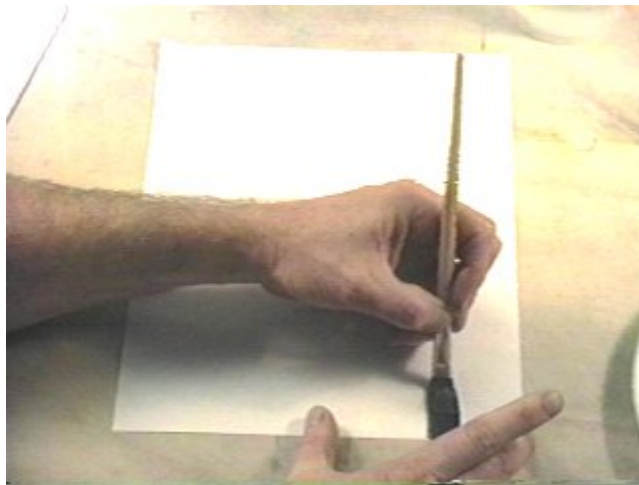
The brushes should be three different sizes. I have used brushes which can be bought for less than three dollars each to demonstrate that you don't have to use expensive bamboo brushes. The big brush is a 1/2 inch flat brush. The medium brush is a number #7 round brush. The little brush is a number #1 round brush.



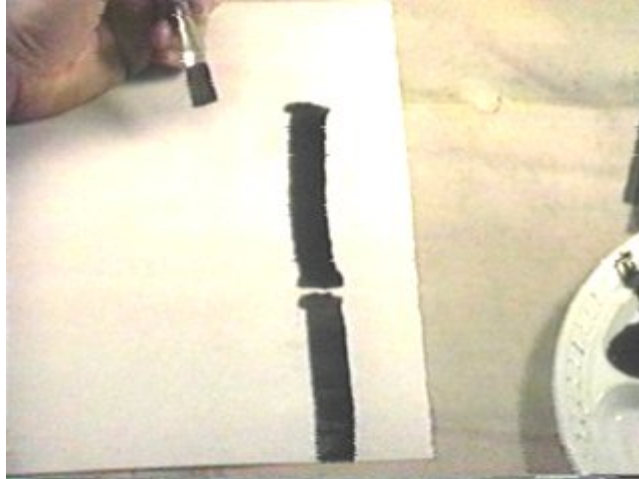
Start with a scrap sheet of paper to practice your brush strokes.



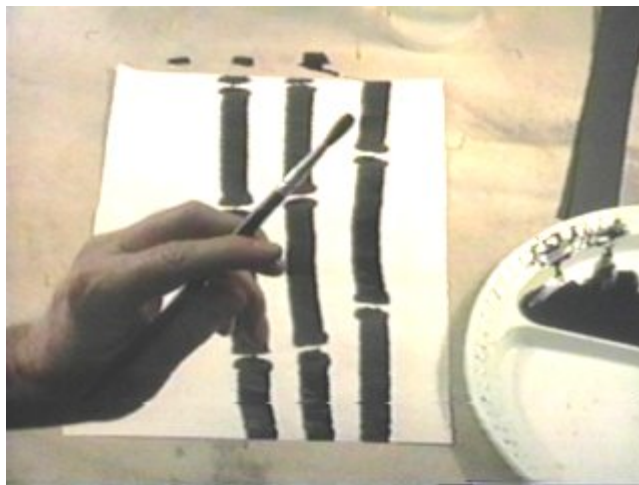
First I'll show you how to use the flat brush to practice the bamboo links.



Start off the edge of the paper (you can clean the little mess later) and drag the brush a few inches.



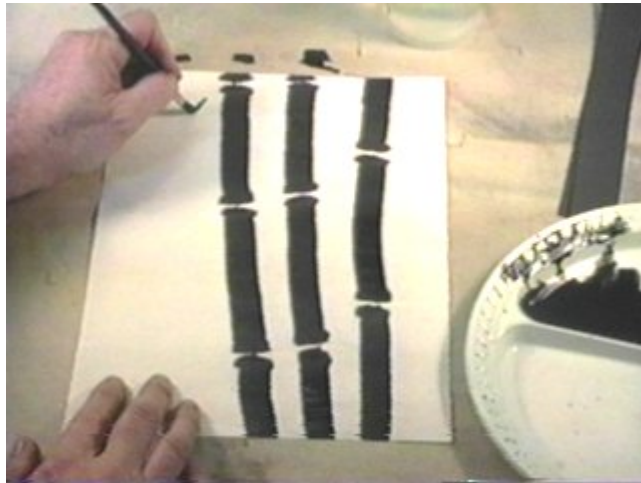
Continue practicing the stalk in sections.



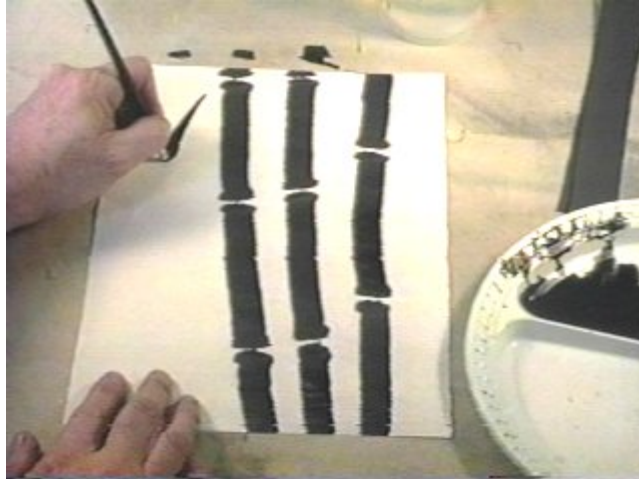
Now get your medium size round brush.



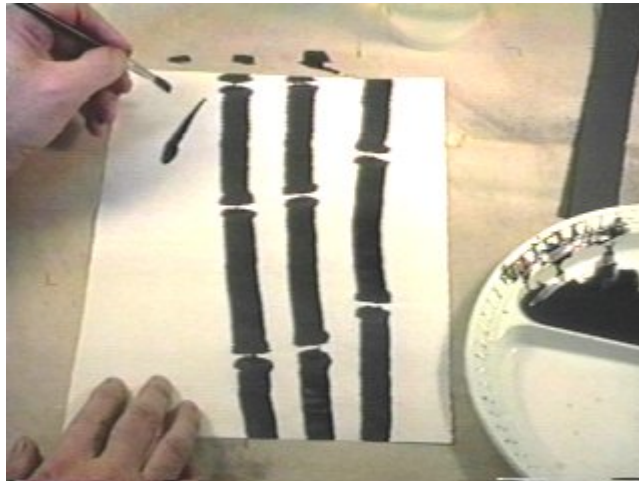
Dip it and wipe off the tip.



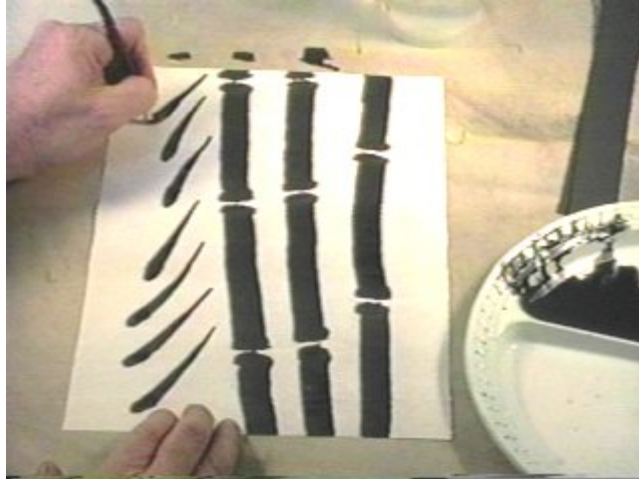
Start as if you were going to draw a skinny line with the tip of the brush, then gradually mash the brush down as you pull it.



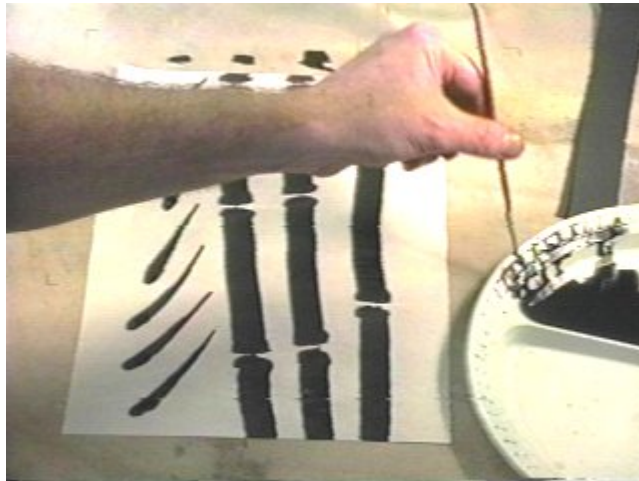
You will create a tear drop shape.



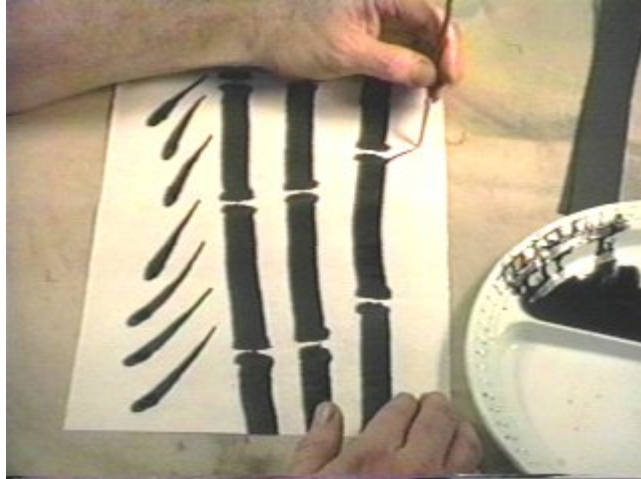
Maybe it looks like a comet to you.



Practice many of them.



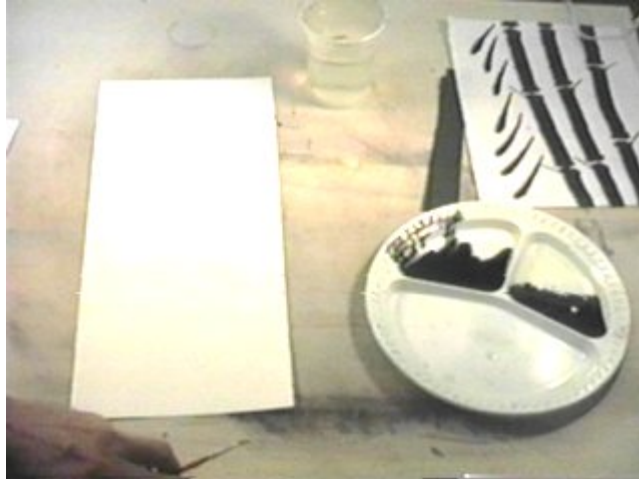
Now dip your tiny round brush and wipe it off.



Practice painting skinny stems from the thick tops of the bamboo sections.



Practice a few and your ready to do the real thing.



Get your long peice of paper and your water.



Dip enough brush fulls of water into one of the trays of ink until it is lighter than the other.



Pour the water if you have to so one compartment of ink is lighter when you paint with it.



Stir in the water till it is homogeneous with the ink and until the darker ink is out of the large flat brush.



Wipe off the tip of your brush.



Start off the edge of the paper like before.



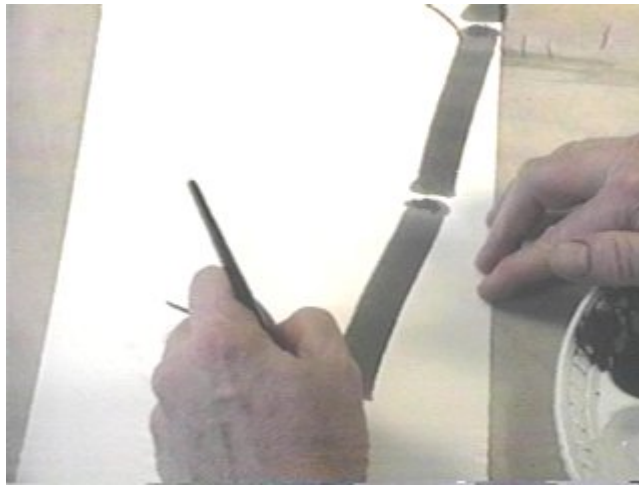
Make a light stalk in sections.



Run off the page.



Dip and wipe off your tiny brush.



Gradually press and drag the leaves.



Yea like that.



Now make a couple more leaves in a random pattern.



Bamboo leaves seem to come out from each other.



The leaves are nt all alike either.



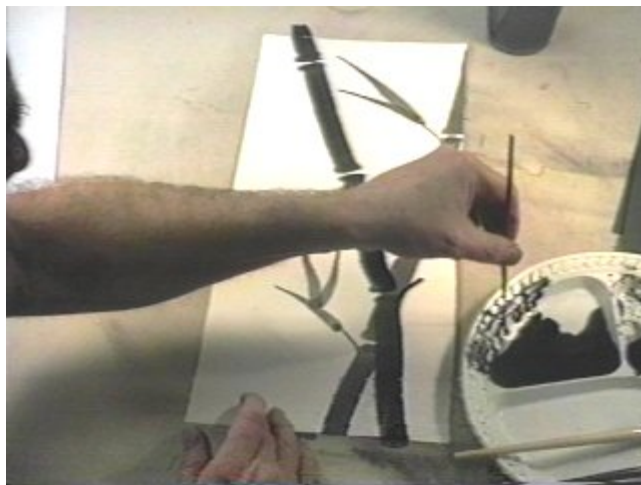
Clean out all the watery ink before you start the darker stalks.
Things that are darker appear closer.



Make your stalk like before.



Run off the top of the page.



Dip the little brush and wipe it off.



Remember when you are painting the stems that you want the leaves to be located in a natural place with the other leaves.



Clean the watery ink out of the round brush.



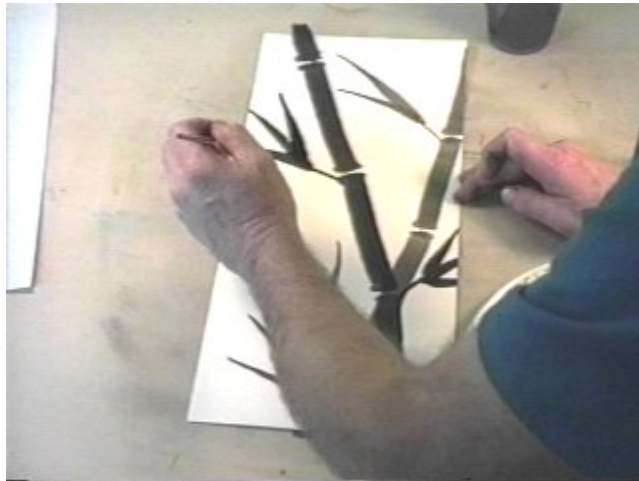
Wipe the tip of the brush and add your darker leaves on the stems.



I'm adding some at the bottom as if they are coming from below the page.



Finish the leaves.



Good job.



Chinese writing is vertical. You can sign your work that way if you like.



Next time try looking at a real piece of bamboo so you can copy nature using the same techniques.