

CHANCE CREATIONS

LINDY LEE: MOON IN A DEW DROP

ACTIVITY

CONNECTING
WITH ARTISTS.

OVERVIEW: In this activity, you will perform with lightweight, natural materials and create an artwork by chance.

Lindy Lee incorporates ‘flung ink’ painting into her work, an ancient tradition among Ch’an (Zen) Buddhist monks. “In ancient China there was a practice called flung ink painting. It’s a calligraphy practice. And what you do is, the monk meditates for a time, to quieten the mind. And then takes up a flask of ink and then just splashes it. And that mark is the exact embodiment of that moment of time.” – Lindy Lee, artist interview, 2020.

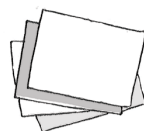
YOU WILL NEED:



natural
materials



string



paper



pencil

PROCESS:

1. Go outside and collect natural materials that are lightweight such as leaves, small twigs, gumnuts (for safety, avoid heavier objects such as rocks).
2. Spread out and give yourself and the other people in your group some space.
3. Hold all of your collected materials in both your cupped hands and very gently drop or toss your materials in front of you. Observe the objects as they fall to the ground.
4. Take some time to look closely at the shape that has been created on the ground by chance.
5. Use a piece of string to trace the big shape that the objects have made by placing the string on the ground, closely hugging the outside of the objects.
6. Take a step back. Use your pencil and paper on your clipboard to draw the shape that you have traced with your string.
7. Take a moment to look at the shape in front of you. If it was a creature, real or imaginary, what kind would it be?
8. Draw all the details of this creature inside and outside of the shape on your paper.
9. Observe the creature you’ve created, partly by chance and partly with your imagination.
10. Think of a name for your creature!

REFLECTION:

- How was the experience of creating this creature different than if you had simply drawn an animal on a piece of paper without collecting the materials and performing with them first?
- How did it feel leaving part of your artmaking up to chance?

ACCESS ADAPTATION: This adaptation is for students using wheelchairs or mobility support units – you may facilitate a variation of this activity on a tray or at a table. Follow the steps as stated, however, rather than tossing materials onto the ground, have students lightly toss or scatter materials onto their tray or table surface that is at an appropriate height.