About the Artist

Guo Fengyi (1942–2010) devoted herself to the ancient Chinese practice of qigong as a way to alleviate the chronic pain that she suffered in middle age, but it also led the development of her unique visual language. During her meditations, Guo drew what she envisioned, often incorporating her understanding of traditional Chinese medicine and ancient cosmological theories. She created her intricate and wildly imaginative drawings in her journals at first, and then on any large sheets she could find, including the backs of old calendars, book pages, and blueprint paper.

Activity

Make a long paper scroll by taping pieces of paper together. Use what you have available; anything with one blank side will work.

Close your eyes and think of the last time you saw the moon and stars. Feel the distance between where you are sitting and the moon.

Open your eyes and draw an imaginary map or path for getting from where you are sitting to the moon and back as Guo did with Fengshui Diagram of the Moon Seen from a Distance.

Related Publication

To learn more about Guo Fengyi and her work visit drawingcenter.org to read the full catalog Guo Fengyi: To See From a Distance.

“I draw because I do not know. I draw to know.”
Drawing Activity #2 Guo Fengyi

Guo Fengyi Work Samples

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