



The Black Dragon Girl

An animated show
about a new girl
boarded at an art
high school



Zhang Sengyou, “Paint the Dragon Eyes” - A Chinese Fable

About 1,500 years ago in China's South Dynasty (420-589), there was a renowned painter whose name was Zhang Sengyou. In addition to serving as the court's royal librarian, Zhang also held the post of a general and a governor.

A legendary painter, Zhang commanded great respect from both the Emperor and commoners. He loved to paint animals, flowers, mountains, and rivers. Outside of his house he painted a vulture on one side and a hawk on another. His paintings were so vividly alive that birds were too scared to build nests around the house.

Once, monks from the Anle Temple in the southern city of Nanjing invited him to paint dragons on the temple wall. People heard this news and came to watch this famous artist paint. In a short time, Zhang painted four lifelike dragons with his magical brush. But people quickly discovered that the dragons did not have eyes. They all wondered why.

Zhang explained, “The dragons' eyes hold their spirits, without which their bodies are merely physical things. If I paint their eyes, they would fly away.” The on-lookers shook their heads in disbelief.

Zhang breathed out a sigh, and took up his brush. He quickly painted eyes on two of the dragons. Suddenly, the sky darkened, thunder roared, and rain came down hard. The two dragons that had painted eyes broke through the wall and flew swiftly heavenward with a thunderbolt.

Watching all of this, the people turned speechless. The sky quickly brightened up again, and on the temple wall were left two dragons without painted eyes.

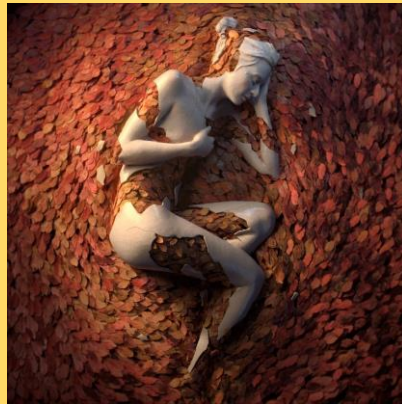
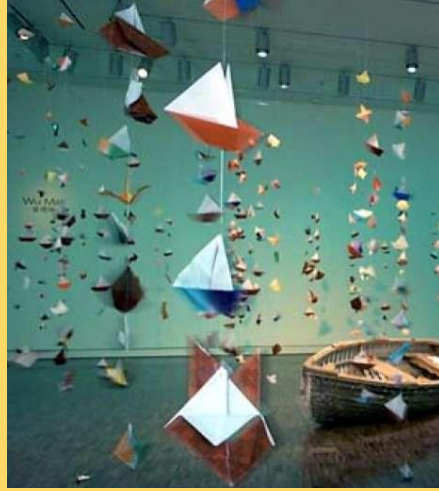
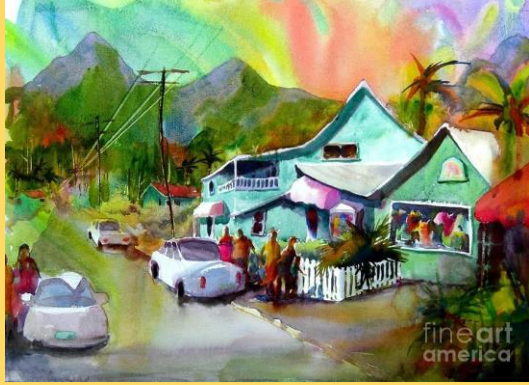
Generations have passed and some people still believe the eyed dragons under Zhang Sengyou's brush did become alive. Regardless, this story has given birth to the expression “paint the dragons' eyes,” which refers to vivid spirit portrayed skillfully in artistic work.

Source: Based on “A Chronicle of Famous Paintings from Past Dynasties (Lidai Minghua Ji)” compiled by Zhang Yanyuan, a painter who lived in the Tang Dynasty (618-907).

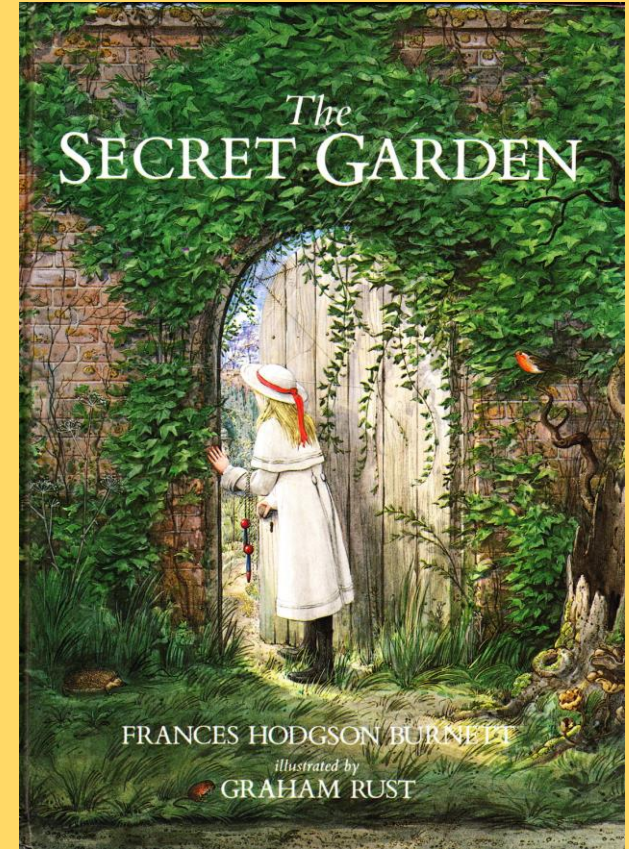
Inspired by the Shonen and Adventure Genres



“Canvases”- The Students’ Art Worlds



Entering another person's Canvas = entering the Magic Circle



The Art Vandal



- Dragons have been appearing in the Canvases of the students and wrecking them apart.
- Emily is the new girl, and she could bring dragons to life.
- People think that she is the one who has done it.

Importance of:

Asian American Women in Cinema

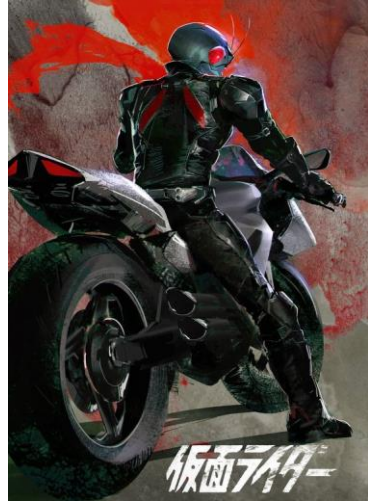
Arts Education -> Mental Health

Listening -> Collaboration

Characters

Emily Xue (15)

- Goofy. Loves making silly things.
- Dramatic, sensitive, intense.
- Always gets in trouble (internal).



Sina Xue (14)

- Emily's younger sister.
- Lazy, chill, don't care.
- Lustful, loves food.
- Always gets in trouble (external).



Mask Aesthetic

All people wear masks in their Canvases.



The Impending Doom:

Death of the Arts Program

Students identify each other through art that they make. As funding for arts programs are cut for arming teachers instead, students realize that they have to collaborate with each other - vastly different personalities - towards a common goal of saving the arts program.

The academic competition at the school creates anxiety and depression. At the end of the day, students learn to focus on themselves through the arts. The students realize that without the arts program, the incoming freshmen are struggling even more with identity, passion, and mental health.

Each episode:

Meeting another student
(new acquaintance? Or drama?)

Emily tries to improve her art skills
(self reflection + practice, longer takes)

Emily finds more clues about the art vandal

Animated Characters + Live Action Backgrounds

Traveling into another world

Inspired by



