

Dragon Fire

O C E A N M I S T



Sign your Haiga - Leave your Mark!

Create a Chop

Now that you have experimented with the art form of Haiga, it is time to leave your mark as an artist that has contributed to the collaboration. In the Edo period, artists would each sign the Haiga they contributed to with their very own personalized signature stamp, called a “Chop”. A chop might have been made of bone or wood, and have the artist’s name carved into it, backwards and reversed, so that when ink was applied to its surface, it would stamp the artists signature on the paper. When looking at an ancient Haiga, you can tell by all of the signatures which artists exchanged and contributed to its creation.

Materials Needed:

Soft Cut Foam, or thin Styrofoam (like from a produce tray)
 Scissors
 Glue
 Heavy cardboard
 Pen
 Wide tipped magic marker or stamp pad
 Paper
 Daylit window

How To:

1. Draw a small square or rectangle on a sheet of paper. This will be the size of your chop, or signature stamp. Anywhere from 1” to 3” on any side is fine.



2. Inside the shape that you made, write your name or initials in very dark pencil.
3. Hold the paper with your signature on it up to the window pane with your name facing away from you. You should be able to see your signature backwards and reversed through the paper.
4. Trace over the backwards and reversed version of your name with pencil.
5. Cut the shape out.
6. Trace its outline on your foam and cut it out.
7. Trace the paper shape's outline on to your cardboard and cut it out.
8. Copy your backwards and reversed signature onto the foam with pen.
9. If you are using Soft Cut foam, go over your signature a couple of times to create an indentation where your lines are.
10. If you are using Styrofoam, go over your signature with your pen, pressing gently down in small areas at a time to prevent the Styrofoam from ripping.
11. Glue the foam to the cardboard with your signature facing up.
12. Using a stamp pad, or wide tipped marker, ink the surface of your new chop.
13. Stamp inked surface onto your Haiga, where you would like to sign your artwork.

