Grade: Third
Lesson: “Ming Vase”

**Elements:** Line
**Principles:** Balance

**Materials:**
- 12” x 18” blue or turquoise construction paper
- 9” x 12” white construction paper
- Watercolor trays (or use just blue liquid watercolor paint)
- Water (in cups/jars)
- Brushes
- Baby Wipes
- Rulers
- Black colored pencil
- Tempera paint (white and pinks)
- Vase templates (at least 8” in height)
- Scissors
Instructions:

1. Search for images of Ming vases to display on smartboard. Explain that the color blue gained special significance in the Chinese history of ceramics during the Tang dynasty (618-907). Cobalt blue was rare and gained in popularity due to its scarcity. Gifting or displaying a Ming vase was a sign of wealth or prestige.

2. Show students the art sample. Talk about the use of line in the pattern on the vases. Mention the balance of the pattern on the vases as well. Explain that students will get to paint with their fingers as well for this art.

3. Have students trace a vase template on the white paper and cut it out.

4. Center the vase at the bottom of the blue background paper and instruct students to draw a faint line at the top of the vase onto background paper. This will be used to approximate where to draw the branches that are in the vase.

5. Paint a blue patterned design on the vase using line.

6. While the watercolor vase dries, have the students use black colored pencil to draw their branches – beginning at the faint line on background paper (so the branches “stay in” the vase). Model this idea, if there is confusion.

7. Let students use their pointer fingers to make blossoms on the branches with the tempera paint. Have them clean their hands with a baby wipe when done.

8. Lastly, carefully glue the vase onto background paper.

9. Have students put their name on the back of art and clean up.

Balance refers to the equilibrium of various elements and involves a sense of order. Order may be symmetrical, formal or informal, or rigid and random.