

# Script

## **First Slide: The book**

Hi guys, I chose Tyrus Wong for this project! I discovered him during Pre-college. The library was and still is my favorite part of campus and I love cruising around the second floor. I found a picture book titled “Paper Son.” (Totally recommend it by the way!) It was the first time I learned about a leading artist, who was Asian.

## **Second Slide: Infographic**

Tyrus Wong had a humble beginning, and it was his persistence that brought him all the fame. He entered the US as an illegal immigrant because he had to fake his identity as a boy who only existed on paper. He had a knack and hunger for arts from the very beginning and this thirst for art remained strong during his lifetime of 106 years, that's right, 106 years.

Although Wong didn't get much credit for his successes until years later, he never stopped doing what he loved. After immigrating to the States, Wong showed his talent in art over academics. Noticing his gift, his father encouraged him to learn the art of calligraphy. During that time, Asian immigrants had limited opportunities and most of them worked in laundromats and restaurants. Wong proved everyone wrong. He won the Otis Art Institute College scholarship with his calligraphy and etching techniques. While he was still a student, he already had many exhibitions.

During the Great Depression, he did not give up on his dream to be an artist. He and his artist friends painted murals and menus to help a restaurant to outperform six other competitors! His

ability to constantly adapt to new situations and his persistence to fulfill his art dream eventually lead to Wong's most noteworthy accomplishment - his participation in the Disney film *Bambi*.

### **Third Slide: Illustration**

At first, Wong worked as an in-betweener in the studio, but when the opportunity arose, people found his approach groundbreaking. Other animators had attempted to do many forest scenes already. They drew every blade of grass, every leaf, and every tree groove. The end result was... too busy. Tyrus Wong introduced simplicity. Instead of focusing on the fine details, Wong focused on feeling. He experimented on countless watercolor paintings, introducing the *feeling* of the sweet grass, lush forests, and sturdy trees. Walt Disney loved it so much that his idea was adapted to the whole film! even including the music! ^^

We can see his idea in this illustration here! :) He applied just a few sweeps of the brush to create a simple olive-like yellow green as the base color scheme. Meanwhile, he made the elements in the front the most detailed and most refined while let the elements at the back fade. This provides so much depth/perspective to the viewers. Although not every blade of grass is emphasized, the whole composition really comes alive. We could almost smell the forest.

What impressed me most is Tyrus Wong's perseverance and his ability to adapt throughout his 106 years on Earth. After being fired from Disney due to a strike he didn't participate in, he got recognition from his holiday cards and his watercolor paintings. Later, he worked at Warner Bros till his retirement. During his time at Warner Bros, he received the Disney Legend Award. He even picked up a new hobby and applied his artistic skills in kite making! Even his hundred long

feet long Cantipede Kite got displayed at the World Kite Museum in Long Beach! This is why I designed my infographic based on a flying kite in the sky.

**Fourth Slide: Going back to Infographic (stop for a little bit)**

**Fifth Slide: YOUR Illustration (stop for a bit?)**

**Sixth Slide: Side by Side**

Part of what made Tyrus so resilient was his willingness to try new things, while keeping his simplistic style! Thus, I think if he lived in this digital age, he would pick up digital art. I'm new to digital art, too, so it has been an interesting experience for me to "explore with Tyrus." In the end, I did change a couple things like leaving out some more nitty gritty details, such as rocks, mini vines. I feel adding those took away the simplicity vibe I was going for. Meanwhile, I feel the digital age seems to make art too "perfect" so Tyrus might prefer to make his digital art perfectly "imperfect" to keep his style and his human touch.

**Seventh Slide: The Quote**

I would like to end my presentation with Wong's citation in my infographic. To the end of his life, Tyrus summarized his whole aspiring journey in kite making...

"With fishing you look down, but with kites you look up."

**Seventh Slide: Thank You!**

Thank you!