

The Art of Bonsai

Welcome to Pacific Bonsai Museum! Today you will explore the elements, principles, and foundations of bonsai. Have fun!

Style: For every bonsai you see today make a tally mark under the style it represents.



Formal Upright

A single trunk that rises in a straight line.



Informal Upright

A single curved trunk with crown and base of tree aligned.



Slanting

A straight or curved trunk, grown on a slant, with the top well to one side of the base.



Semi-Cascade

A straight or curved trunk extending out and sometimes down.



Cascade

Most of the trunk drops below the soil line and may be below the bottom of the pot.



Group Planting

A grove or forest of trees in a shallow pot.

Illustrations by Ikune Sawada

Creative Process: As you tour the Museum, keep track of all the ways you can see that the artists have manipulated the parts of the bonsai trees. Write what you find here:

Reflecting Nature: Look at the full-size trees surrounding the Museum. Can you find any bonsai that remind you of them or are the same kind of tree?

Draw the full-size tree or a part of it.

Draw the bonsai.

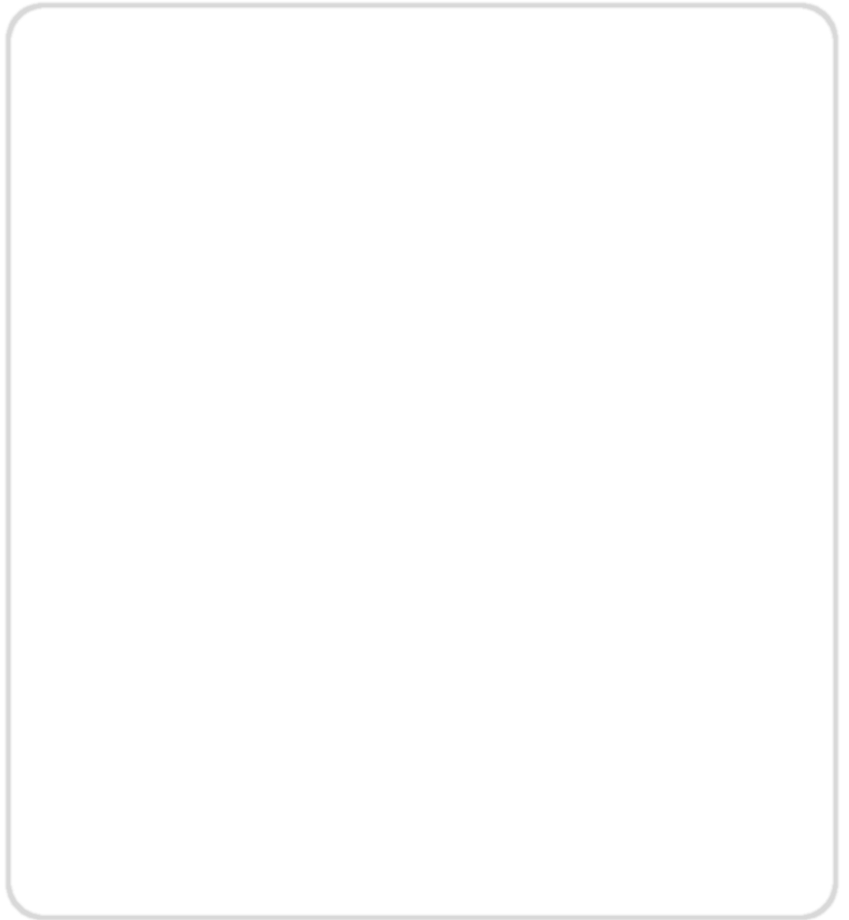
Describe the trees and what they have in common.

Response: Choose your favorite bonsai and draw it. Pay attention to which style it is and the lines of the trunk and branches.

What feelings does this piece bring out in you?

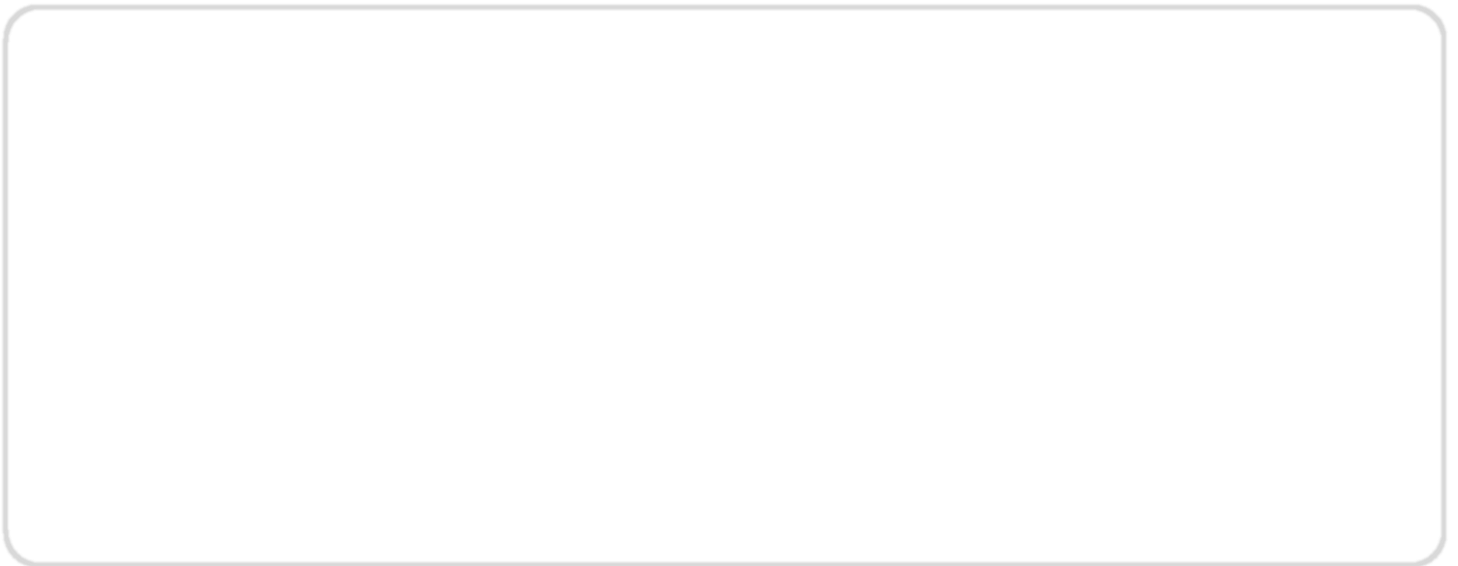
What story is the scene of your bonsai telling?

Find a bonsai that has a different feeling. What feeling does this one have?



Reflection: Draw and/or write about how your visit to Pacific Bonsai Museum connected you to nature, what you learned about the art of bonsai, what you felt today, how bonsai can connect to other art forms or aspects of life and culture, and/or anything else.

Useful Words: harmony proportion balance line form texture mass color shape



Art Creation: Go to the Art Station under the tent. Follow the instructions provided to create your own bonsai inspired art piece and take home your own living bonsai!