The Art Of Hand Lettering

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Calligraphy (from Ancient Greek: kallos "beauty" and graphē "writing") is a visual art related to writing. It is the design and execution of lettering with a broad tip instrument or brush in one stroke (as opposed to built up lettering, in which the letters are drawn). A contemporary calligraphic practice can be defined as, "the art of giving form to signs in an expressive, harmonious, and skillful manner". Modern calligraphy ranges from functional inscriptions and designs to fine-art pieces where the letters may or may not be legible. Classical calligraphy differs from typography and non-classical hand-lettering, though a calligrapher may practice both. Calligraphy continues to flourish in the forms of wedding and event invitations, font design and typography, original hand-lettered logo design, religious art, announcements, graphic design and commissioned calligraphic art, cut stone inscriptions, and memorial documents. It is also used for props and moving images for film and television, testimonials, birth and death certificates, maps, and other written works. Some of the finest works of modern calligraphy are charters and letters patent issued by monarchs and officers of state in various countries. The principal tools for a calligrapher are the pen, which may be flat-balled or round-nibbed, and the brush. For some decorative purposes, multi-nibbed pens-steel brushes-can be used. However, works have also been created with felt-tip and ballpoint pens, although these works do not employ angled lines. Writing ink is usually water-based and is much less viscous than the oil-based inks used in printing. High quality paper, which has good consistency of porosity, enables cleaner lines, although parchment or vellum is often used, as a knife can be used to erase imperfections and a light box is not needed to allow lines to pass through it. Normally, light boxes and templates are used to...
**Customer Reviews**

Although I have no intention (nor talent) of becoming a calligrapher or hand-letterer this book is of tremendous value to people who are interested in the history of how the many writing styles have evolved into printed type. This book has many examples which describe the techniques of hand-lettering with pen and ink and their evolution into the letterforms for typcasting and printing. My major interest in this book is that I believe that a thorough understanding of the origins of the written letterform is of great interest and value to the typographer and type designer. The section of the book which details the proportions of the Roman majuscules and minuscules is worth the price of the book. P.S. I am grateful that Dover Publications, Inc. New York is keeping so many books of on these valuable historical subjects in print.

Very detailed. Biggest help was section on layouts and choices of lettering styles. It will come in handy as a reference book as I work on improving my hand lettering skills.

Great, in-depth insights into the art and practice of hand lettering.

Awesome book. Good read and great examples.