



The Art of Hand Lettering

By Helm Wotzkow

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From Wikipedia: Calligraphy (from Ancient Greek: *kallos* "beauty" and *graph?* "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-tipped 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,[clarification needed] enables cleaner lines,[citation needed] 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...

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