

Josie Brown

Calligraphy · Heraldry · Illumination

WORKSHOPS

Introduction to any of the major hands including Foundation, Uncial, Anglo-Saxon Minuscule, Carolingian, Gothic Transitional, Black Letter, various cursive Gothics, a contemporary Legende, formal Humanist, Italic and the many variations of any of these.

Developing & refining a major hand – analysing common characteristics and identifying aspects of the script that can be varied, to result in personalised versions of any of the above scripts.

Traditional techniques – cutting & curing quills, stretching and preparing vellum, ancient methods of laying gold, painting with egg tempera & decorative elements for manuscripts.

Designing broadsheets / panels – the principles and pitfalls, working processes and design elements involved with a large or complex piece of work.

Brushed lettering for working on fabric – using broad edged and pointed brushes, FW inks, acrylic & fabric paints.

Lettering on objects such as papier mache boxes, terracotta pots or plaques, wood, glass, china etc. This includes developing appropriate lettering for use on these materials.

Gilding techniques – many & varied, ancient & modern using loose leaf and transfer leaf gold, flat and raised gilding. Also techniques using copper, aluminium & imitation gold as backgrounds and writing over these.

Eastern gilding – an ancient Persian method of preparing gold and how to paint with it in a style not used in Western gilding.

Simple bookbinding – a wide range of bindings, mostly using non-adhesive methods, including flat-back single section books; a multitude of different concertina books; multi section Coptic binding; Japanese stab and butterfly bindings, as well as wraps, boxes & slipcases.

Origami for calligraphers – a range of tiny books, covers, boxes or envelopes for calligraphy.

Paper frames – a really useful workshop showing how to make and decorate frames for pieces of work made from paper covered boards.

Dptychs & Triptychs – an alternative presentation for calligraphy: some are entirely non-adhesive using paper, ribbon or piano hinges, whilst others use covered boards.

Introduction to Heraldic Design – basic principles for personal use – includes the punning of participants' surnames.

Decorated Letters – historical overview related to contemporary techniques and usages, to result in individual approaches to decorating initial letters, using watercolour, gouache and egg tempera.

Dressed Letters – this is a whirlwind tour of all sorts of contemporary letters, dressed up in a variety of finery – using lots of different tools, colour mediums and processes to result in a bank of ideas for future use.

Colour and colour theory – stepped exercises to really get to grips with using colour with confidence, in any medium.

Artistic Inspiration for calligraphy – uses artists' paintings as reference points for style, proportion, colour and ambience in order to kick-start the creative process, offering inspiration for calligraphic interpretation.

Layering techniques using pastels – a quick and easy method for sinking lettering behind background colours or other layers of lettering, to create textural & highly atmospheric calligraphy.

Working Inside-Out Activity – a workshop to synthesize skills and techniques with instinctive responses, to create work that 'does what it says'.

Working Backwards Activity – a musical workshop to break the creative barrier and to utilize the sub-conscious to gain personalised calligraphic scripts.

Free-Penning – not for beginners, this workshop teaches skills in advanced penmanship and manipulation techniques in order to achieve free-flowing and individualised scripts.

Penning a Rainbow – how to run from one colour to another so that they mix in the pen and on the paper in a fluid manner. This workshop uses both watercolours and gouache and ends with a funny folding thing too!