



Dundee Contemporary Arts

Japanese Brush Calligraphy

Location: Print Studio, beside Jute Café Bar on Lower Ground level of DCA

Date: Sun 14 August

Time: 11:00 – 18:00

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

What will be covered? Campbell Sandilands, who spent four years studying brush calligraphy with Master Shingai Tanaka in Kyoto, will give an informative introduction to the subject and share his own unique insight. You will see some beautiful examples of Tanaka's work, and a range of materials and equipment used. Campbell will talk about the importance of preparation before starting, and transference of Ki energy into the artwork.

You will experience the approach of meditative ink grinding as a means to still the mind and centre yourself before drawing a zen circle, which reflects the state of one's mind. There will be an opportunity to reflect on what you have achieved, and if you wish, share with the group.

You will learn how to hold and use a traditional brush, and how to structure a Kanji (a Chinese character). You will practise several styles of brush calligraphy using examples of Takanaka's own brush calligraphy as models. There is the opportunity to use different brushes and on different scales.

The *sosho* style of brush calligraphy is potentially the freest flowing style, and lends itself to creative interpretation. Using Takaka's beautiful models as inspiration, you have the chance to embrace 'the art of the moment' by creating your own distinctive interpretations of these characters.

Placing the signature in the shape of a name seal is crucial to the overall balance and composition of the works. Campbell will discuss this with you, and demonstrate how to enliven or take away from the quality of the work with the placement of the name seal. Under his guidance, you have the opportunity to put the finishing touches to several of your favourite works.

What should I bring? Just yourself – all materials will be provided.

What should I wear? We provide aprons, but we do also recommend wearing old clothes in case of ink splashes! Do also note that no open toed sandals or footwear are allowed in the Print Studio. Please bring warm items of clothing as windows may be open for ventilation as part of our Covid Health & Safety measures.

What should I expect? Experience drawing a Zen circle, draw numerous characters using different styles of calligraphy, and explore the use of various kinds of brushes. You will have the opportunity to create several different works.

There will be a short session at the end of the day for feedback and discussion and you'll be offered the opportunity to give written feedback.

Breaks and Meals

DCA Print Studio will close between 14:00 and 15:00 for lunch. Everyone must leave the studio during this time. Food and drinks are not allowed in the studio (a sealed water flask or drinking vessel is permitted). Jute Café Bar have great options for lunch and there are also a number of shops and cafes close by.

Visiting Safely

- Face masks are encouraged but not mandatory.
- Please use the hand sanitiser provided, and wash your hands regularly.
- Don't visit if you aren't feeling well.