



Dundee Contemporary Arts

Course Information for Signwriting with Brian Robertson

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

Date: Sat 6 & Sun 7 August (two-day course)

Time: 11:00 – 17:00

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What should I bring?

Just yourself and an open mind, all materials are provided.

What should I wear?

We provide aprons but we'd also recommend wearing old clothes as some of the inks used in the print studio will not wash out – and printmaking can be messy! Please also note that open-toed shoes and sandals are not allowed in the Print Studio. Windows in the Print Studio may be open for ventilation due to Covid Health & Safety measures, so we recommend bringing warm items of clothing.

Subjects to be covered over the two days:

- Introduction & explanation of paints (lettering enamels - black and gold for use) & brush(es) including lining brushes. Explain greasing, de-greasing & care.
- Brief display & exhibit of tools used for sign painting - Pencil, Tracing Paper, Stabilo, Mahl Stick, Chalk Line, Chalk, Masking & Fine Line Tape, Pounce Pattern, Pounce Pin / Wheel, Pounce Powder, Palette, Tins, White Spirits, Soft Cloths, Straight Edge / Measuring Ruler, Panel Wipe, Easel.
- Exhibit of pre-treated plywood, veneered panels for working upon & how to prepare surface for lettering & painting.
- Explanation of lettering styles (including large diagrams of letter components & brush strokes): Roman, Sans Serif, Casual Handscript. Include Letraset books for reference.
- Using Letraset books & supplied laminated photocopies, students will be asked to choose a font style & word to hand letter upon their panel.
- Sheets of tracing paper at the exact rectangular working area of each panel will be handed out & students will be instructed how to first determine their lettering area on each panel then to plan the spacing, weight & case of each letter to transfer to the panel.

- Students begin drawing with a pencil, their lettering on the tracing paper. Emphasising the importance of drawing each letter correctly.
- Tracings will then be attached to their panels, hinged with masking tape.
- Tracings will then be chalked & rubbed on the back and re-attached to panels.
- Using a pencil, each word will then be transferred onto the panels.
- Any lettering requiring fine line tape or masking tape will then be applied.
- If time allows, students can then begin lettering, using pre-prepared gold paint.
- At this point, instructions of how to hold, twist & affirm pressure of the brush will be taught.

At the end of the course you will 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.