

Write On!

Exploring Texture and Rhythm

Date: 18th to 22nd November 2024
Venue: InStitches Textile Studio
Experience Level: suitable for all levels

DESCRIPTION

From early cave paintings, runes and symbols, humanity has been trying to communicate since the dawn of time. This workshop is for anyone who is interested in using text or letterforms to create texture and as a form of mark making.

With permission from Denise Lach, a Master Calligrapher who Claire has studied with, you will explore your own handwriting using a variety of tools – an invitation to play with written letterforms. You DO NOT need to have experience of calligraphy and will discover that your own handwriting – no matter how ‘good or bad’ – can be used in a personal and creative way to create texture and depth, and legibility is far from important.

Although there are no hard and fast rules, Claire will use a series of Denise’s playful exercises to unleash the potential of your own handwriting, helping you to:

- loosen up your hand and discover what it’s capable of doing with letterforms
- explore rhythm, repetition, spacing, density and contrast
- develop and create marks, symbols and runes that reference text
- get messy and illegible
- use block printing with a range of wooden alphabets, numbers and punctuation marks as a contrast to handwritten work
- develop your eye, understand the importance of ‘white space’ and improve your sense of rhythm and unity
- examine how the output from paper-based activity can be achieved on cloth.

SUPPLIED MEDIA & MATERIALS

The supplies fee will cover the use of:

- India/China ink
- Paper of different types
- A length of calico
- Acrylic medium, ink and paint
- Tools: a selection of key tools will be provided, including:
 - ⇒ wooden and acrylic alphabets, numbers and punctuation
 - ⇒ monoprinting plates (large & small)
 - ⇒ credit cards and scrapers
 - ⇒ needle-nose bottles
 - ⇒ calligraphy tools

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS – WHAT TO BRING

Something to write....

As you will be exploring letterforms/text, it can be helpful to have something to write (as opposed to using 'Kilroy woz here'). You will need to choose a short sentence – of say, no more than 10 words – that appeals or has meaning to you, or is simply easy to remember. This will become the ONLY sentence used when exploring text – the hand becomes used to the sentence, allowing more freedom and spontaneity – if the mind is free, the hand is free.

- **Tools:** you'll see that a good supply of tools will be provided but if you have specific tools you wish to use, then bring them – remember to think TEXT!
- **A dropcloth*:** sturdy, such as drill cotton, denim or something similar in a neutral colour is best. Old sheets are too thin and avoid heavy-weight calico or canvas as it tends to hold wrinkles. Please also avoid the plastic-backed decorators' cloths. Your dropcloth needs to measure 1.3m x 2m, once scoured and shrunk.
- 1 x box of ball-headed or T pins
- 1 x black Sharpie*
- Pen and pencil
- Cloth apron (or wear the equivalent of gardening/decorating clothes)
- Comfortable, rubber-soled shoes
- A camera as it's useful to record work-in-progress
- an iPod and headphones if you like to work to music

*available to purchase from InStitches