

CALLIGRAPHY - THE UNCIAL SCRIPT

2 DAY BEGINNERS COURSE: Tuesday 25th & Wednesday 26th July 2017

2 DAY IMPROVERS COURSE: Thursday 27th & Friday 28th July 2017

10am – 4pm

FEE: £110 for each course

including lunch and refreshments



Example of a student's work

TUTOR: Liz Barrow

Beginners (25th & 26th July)

Writing with an edged nib opens up a new world of writing! We'll discover how the beautiful Uncial letterforms were first written, many hundreds of years ago. During the first day we'll explore the properties of the edged pen, by using it to create repeating calligraphic patterns. This will lead us on to writing the letters of the Uncial alphabet, and we'll consider both traditional and contemporary treatments by adding colour and touches of gold.

During day two we'll combine script, calligraphic patterns and colour techniques, and everyone will have an opportunity to work on their own small project, creating an individual work of art to take home.

Improvers (27th & 28th July)

This two-day course can be taken as a follow-on from the previous two days, and it is also suitable as a stand-alone course for people who already have experience of the basic Uncial script. On day three we will look at some basic knotwork motifs, which are traditionally used to complement Uncial letters, and we will create a design using knotwork with text. We will then move onto considering variations of the basic script, using different shapes and weights of the letterforms to create interesting textures. This will continue into day four, and participants will complete a longer piece of writing using colour and texture.

See overleaf for materials list

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Materials list:

The following equipment will be available to purchase from the tutor:

- **Square-cut nibs (William Mitchell or Leonhardt Manuscript).** At least a size 1 or 1.5, and a 2 or 2.5. If you have other sizes bring them, especially for days 3 and 4 – all sizes will be available to purchase - **approx cost 85p each**
(Please advise the tutor in advance if you are left-handed, as you will need left-oblique nibs)
- **Pen holder** for using with the nibs. You only need one, as you can switch nibs. **Approx £1 to £2 each depending on style**
- **Slippon reservoirs** used on the nibs for holding ink. You can have one for each nib, or just one which you switch from nib to nib. **Approx 65p each**

If you prefer to purchase your own nibs, pen holder and reservoirs in advance, they can be obtained from Tindalls in Cambridge/Ely, or from www.scribblers.co.uk , www.blotspens.co.uk or from www.cornelissen.com

- **Ink, gouache paint, gum arabic, bronze/silver powder and masking tape** will be available to use over the two/four days. **£1.50 total contribution per participant.**
- Some small plastic containers will be available at **50p each** for holding the ink etc. Or you could bring a sectioned palette if you have one, and/or a few mini jam jars or small screw-top containers.
- **Paper:** Cartridge paper, available approx **40-60p/A3 sheet**, or bring your own A3 pad (smooth surface) 130gsm or heavier.
- **Portable drawing boards** will be available to borrow from the tutor, but if you have your own you may prefer to bring it. No need to purchase one specially.

Items which you will need to bring:

- One or two cheap small brushes (for loading ink/paint into pen)
- One or two better quality small brushes size 0 or smaller approx £3
- 30cm or 45cm acrylic ruler, pencil, eraser, scissors, glue stick, water pot or empty jam jar, cotton rag, good quality coloured pencils, mini jam jars and/or palette, black fineliner pen (for day 3 only)
- OPTIONAL watercolour paper, such as Fabriano 5, Saunders Waterford, Arches Aquarelle, Fabriano Artistico, with hot pressed surface, A4/A3 size. This will give you an excellent quality of finished work, however cartridge paper is also fine.