

# The art of modern calligraphy from across the world on show at the Fitzwilliam Museum

## Calligraphy Today

10 November 2012 - 13 January 2013 | Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

Curated by Patricia Lovett and Dr Stella Panayotova

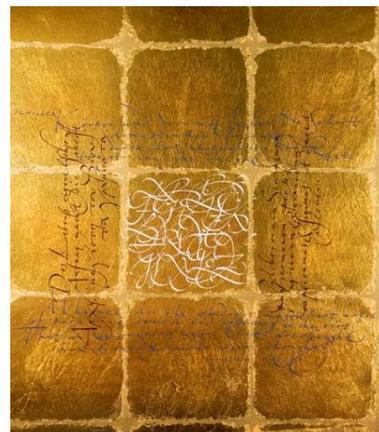
A remarkable exhibition of contemporary calligraphy by leading artists from Britain and across the world is going on display for the first time at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.

The exhibition features works from a new collection of modern calligraphy acquired by the Fitzwilliam in 2008. Organised by one of the UK's leading calligraphers, Patricia Lovett, over 80 works were offered by some of the world's foremost calligraphy artists to join the collections at the Museum including pieces in stone, carved wood, glass and ceramics as well as works on paper, parchment and papyrus.

The new range of contemporary work adds a fresh chapter to the Fitzwilliam Museum's exceptional collection of illuminated manuscripts and books dating from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance through to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. These latest pieces create a modern archive for future generations on the art of calligraphy today.

The new exhibition represents the highlights of the modern acquisitions, vibrant contemporary artworks together with pieces that celebrate the ancient heritage of calligraphy from across the world.

Co-curator of the exhibition Dr Stella Panayotova commented: "The displays will demonstrate the versatility of modern calligraphy. Traditional calligraphy uses paper, parchment or (in Egypt) papyrus and quills, brushes or reed pens, but here you will see works in many other media including stone, wood and glass. People will also be able to see the incredible diversity of themes being



*Calligraphy in four languages*  
Hermann Zapf, before 2004  
Silkscreen print on genuine gold leaf  
with tempera colour



*Thrown 'globe' form*  
Mary White, 2000  
Black & blue glazes, silver & gold lusters  
applied on porcelain



*Alpha and Omega*  
Gemma Black, 2007  
Brause nibs, balsa wood, Korean stick  
ink, gouache, gold lead & metal stylus

explored in the art-form today as the collection represents everything from geometry, economics and mathematics, to literature, ecology and politics.”

A selection of exceptional works from the Museum’s historic collections will be on display in adjacent galleries, including medieval illuminated manuscripts and Islamic ceramics. These will complement the main displays by reflecting the evolution of the art and its techniques.

Accompanying the exhibition will be a public education programme for all ages focusing on heritage crafts and their contemporary practice including; medieval illumination, Gothic black lettering, brush lettering, calligraphy with watercolour and coloured pencil, and the use of gold leaf.

There will also be an international study day on 10 November 2012 bringing experts on the history of calligraphy and illumination together with practicing artists.

Dr Stella Panayotova continued: “We hope this exhibition will help raise the profile of calligraphy today by getting people actively involved with the art. The project will also have real longevity through a new printed catalogue as well as information and images online. Most of all, the Museum would like to thank Patricia Lovett and all the contributing artists from Britain and around the world who made this project possible with their exceptional generosity. We hope that all our visitors will be inspired by the beauty and skill in the works they have donated.”

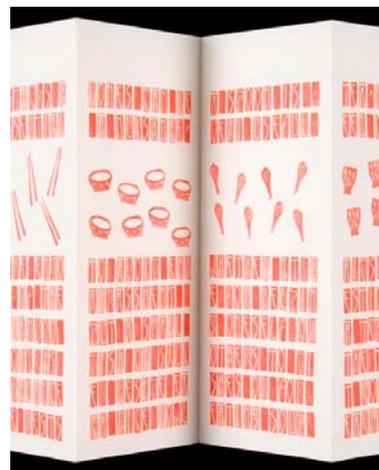
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For further information and images contact the Marketing and Press Office:  
Telephone: 01223 332941 | Email: [fitzmuseum-press@lists.cam.ac.uk](mailto:fitzmuseum-press@lists.cam.ac.uk)

Notes to editors:

**Calligraphy Today** | 1 November 2012 – 3 January 2013  
The Fitzwilliam Museum, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RB  
**ADMISSION FREE**

OPEN: Tuesday – Saturday: 10.00 – 17.00  
Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays: 12.00 – 17.00  
CLOSED: Mondays, 24–26 & 31 December 2012 and 1 January 2013



*Eight at table*  
Susan Leiper, 2000  
Chinese-style hand-made book.  
Individual letters and motifs cut into rubber stamps, printed with Chinese seal paste on to Chinese xuan paper.



*Pythagorus QED (detail)*  
Lin Kerr, 2003  
Gouache and Dutch metal on Roma  
Fabriano paper, artist’s handmade  
rubber stamped letters



*Falcon of the Path*  
Jila Peacock, 2004  
Enlarged pearlescent colour silkscreen  
print from *Ten poems from Hafez*

All photos  
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## The Fitzwilliam Museum

Founded in 1816 the Fitzwilliam is the principal museum of the University of Cambridge, with collections exploring world history and art from antiquity to the present day. It houses over half a million objects from ancient Egyptian, Greek and Roman artefacts, to medieval illuminated manuscripts, masterpiece paintings from the Renaissance to the 21<sup>st</sup> century and outstanding collections of applied arts, ceramics, coins, and Asian arts. Welcoming over 400,000 visitors a year, the Fitzwilliam presents a wide ranging public programme of major exhibitions, events and education activities, and is an internationally recognised institute of learning, research and conservation.  
[www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk](http://www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk)

## Calligraphy and manuscript collections at the Fitzwilliam Museum

The Fitzwilliam has a long-standing tradition in collecting, conserving, researching and displaying the finest examples of the arts and crafts of different periods. The Museum's collections of medieval and Renaissance calligraphy and manuscript illumination, and of fine printing, were greatly enhanced in the early twentieth-century by acquisitions of early printed books, Private Press books, and calligraphy produced by members of the Arts and Crafts Movement. The Museum's strength in fine typography received a major boost from the John Gustave Dreyfus bequest in 2003. In 2007, the Walter Strachan archive added new riches to the collections of historic and contemporary crafts and the related arts of the book.

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