

BEYOND CALLIGRAPHY

A JAPANESE ITALIAN EXPERIENCE
PALERMO - ITALY MAY 23/31, 2020

MAKING CALLIGRAPHIC BOOKS in PALERMO, ITALY

When writing is abstracted from text, it doesn't give any definition, therefore it opens a space to imagination and intuition.

— Monica Dengo

Periodically Satsuki and I venture into a new project, this is one! In 2020 we are organizing a workshop in Palermo, Sicily, and we are thinking to link Southern Japan and Southern Italy by placing **Nature** at the center, along with **Handwriting**. The concept of the week will emerge through conversations about how Nature is perceived in Eastern and Western cultures.

We will begin our week long workshop with a visit at the University of Palermo's Botanical Garden and have a deep immersion into the most extraordinary expressions of natural beauty. We will be encouraged to walk around, sit by giant trees or flowers and sketch lines of what we feel, sense or hear, more than what we see.

The Botanical Garden of Palermo is a centre of scientific research deeply involved in the knowledge and conservation of the environment. We will talk about different views of Nature in art and culture, and ask ourselves how we can translate this into our daily life and our daily sketchbook. The favourable climate of Palermo reproduces the natural habitat of most of the plants which allows for their natural growing and flowering, so what we'll meet in the botanical garden we'll also encounter while walking in the city.





During the week we will study Eastern and Western handwritings. We'll learn the rules and then try to walk out of them, to become nomads of the empty space. We will use different kinds of paper, both Eastern and Western. We will make our instruments out of leaves, bark, sticks and make handmade books, all with papers derived from plants: precious papers in cotton or kozo dyed with vegetable dyes, or more common, humble papers from the Palermo famous fish and vegetable markets.

These books will be our sketchbooks during the whole week.

We will also visit the Biblioteca Centrale Regione Sicilia where we'll be able to observe ancient manuscripts, visit Edizioni Precarie, an artisan's studio specialized in books that tell the story of the city through local papers, walk in the heart of Palermo and eat in local trattorias.



Location

The workshop will be held in a beautiful liberty style apartment near the Politeama Theatre, in the city center.

We are available for assistance in finding the best B&B and will give you a list when you sign up. Palermo has an international airport very well connected to the city center.

All the locations we will visit are at walking distance (maximum 3 km), but we can assist students in case they need transportation.

Maximum number of students: 12.

Fee, deposit and registration:

First contact me at ciao@monicadengo.com to know if there are spaces available and to receive all the information.



MONICA DENG O lives and works in Italy. She is an artist and teacher working with handwriting, lettering, calligraphy. She has taught in Japan, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Switzerland, France, Canada, Russia and United States. Currently she teaches at ISIA Urbino and in a three years long course on historical calligraphy in Venice - Italy, for CIAC - Centro Internazionale Arti Calligrafiche.

After a formal training in calligraphy and bookbinding Monica stepped out of the historical framework to begin an investigation of the contemporary connection that people have with their own handwriting. Her studies were particularly influenced by her students: during intensive workshops in which she guides students to break all the rules of legibility she realized how deeply people's minds are framed by the forms and structures of the text. Further studies of scientific discoveries in the importance of handwriting for the brain, has lead her to investigate writing by hand as a form of expression independent from the rules of legibility and deeply connected with the wholeness of body and mind.

Her work has been exhibited in many parts of the world and in 2014 she was awarded best international artist at the Sharjah Calligraphy Biennial. Her work can be found at the San Francisco Public Library Special Collection, the Berlin's Akademie der Kunste Calligraphy Collection and in private collections. Her artist's books will be published this summer by Juxta Press, Milan - Italy.

Publications: Pick Up Your Pen has been published by Giannino Stoppani Editore in Canada, France, Italy and Estonia, and in 2017, Lascia il Segno, dedicated to handwriting as an expression of human creativity, has been published with Terre di Mezzo Editore, in Italy and will be coming out soon in English with Niggli Verlag, Switzerland.

To find out more about her artwork visit www.monicadengo.com

SATSUKI HATSUSHIMA lives and works in the Kyushu Island of Japan. In 2002 she established the association Studio Ponte in her studio in Fukuoka. Studio Ponte is intended as a bridge between Eastern and Western calligraphy. There she teaches historical Western calligraphy and organizes international workshops. Satsuki received a Master's degree in Fine Arts from the Kyushu Sangyo University in Fukuoka. Her master thesis was about the study of calligraphy for graphic design education.

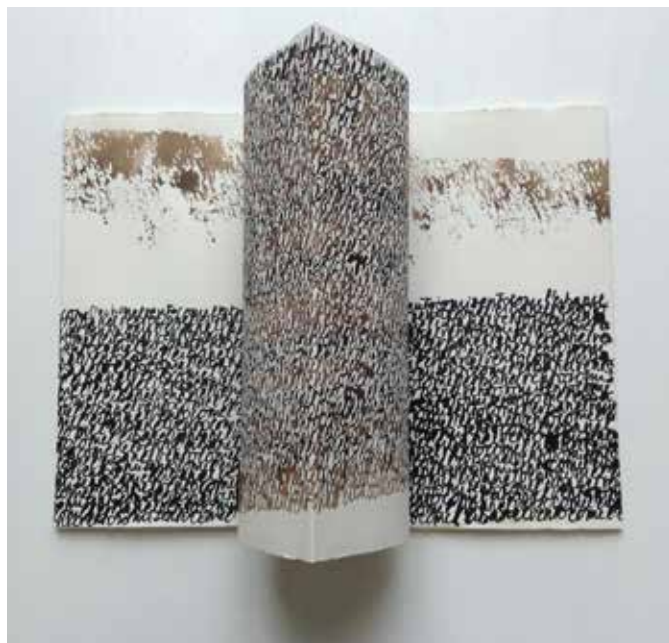
Satsuki teaches Western historical calligraphy at Kyushu Sangyo University and Kyushu Zokei Art College as well as several community colleges in Japan. She has been invited to teach Japanese and Western calligraphy in England, Ireland and Italy. Her work has been exhibited in many places including Korea, UK, Belgium, Italy and U.S.

Her life in a Japanese traditional home with thatched roof, built in 1885, has greatly influenced her artwork which she makes with natural materials and hand made Japanese papers. She cooks with firewood in the IRORI fireplace and earthen floor everyday.

Short videos about her life:

<https://vimeo.com/314171158/d329a410a1?fbclid=IwAR2nU5T6WOyFEwwncOKgY1ddEkYRWpS-JYgQotSZ0fiBJd4ItuVSuVD0CMWY>

<https://www.tnc.co.jp/kodou/archives/kodou57.php>



In this page you can see some photos of artworks made during a workshop Satsuki and myself taught together in Puglia, another Southern Italian region, in 2014. The program was similar to the one we are proposing in Palermo, writing Western and Eastern hand-writings, studying them from both a traditional and a contemporary view point, being influenced by nature, culture, architecture.

Below is an image of the Palermo classroom, where I've already taught in the past. The room is given to us by AZOTO Project and Communication, Via Enrico Albanese, 108 Palermo.

