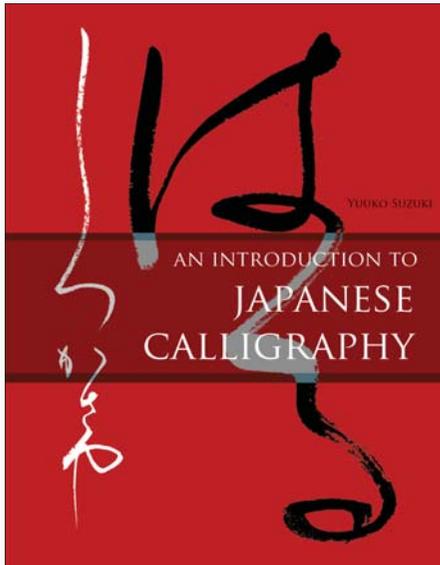


AN INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE CALLIGRAPHY

Yuuko Suzuki



- With clear instructions and 148 photos, explains the spiritual and artistic basics of Japanese calligraphy
- Shows how to use the brush to create beautiful characters, words, and even poems
- Explains the art's ancient traditions, and includes a selection of contemporary calligraphers' works as inspiration

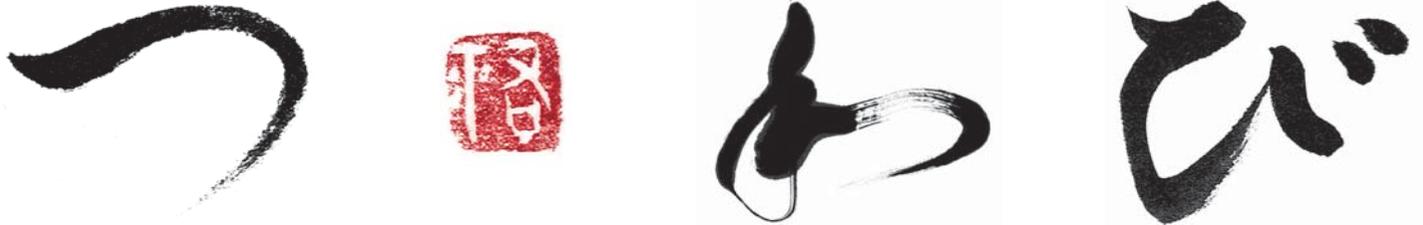
Clear instructions and 148 photos welcome you to the subtle, fascinating world of Japanese calligraphy. Beginning with a summary of the art's history, this guide then helps you understand the two systems of script that Japanese uses together: kanji, the ideogram-like characters borrowed from the Chinese language; and kana, the purely phonetic characters. Next, you'll learn the correct way to use the "four treasures of study" (brush, ink, inkstone, and paper), as well as seals and other tools. Then begin learning to calligraph characters, words, and even poems using either a large brush or a small writing brush. Try your hand at joined calligraphy, which is considered the soul of Japanese calligraphy. Finally, a gallery of works of calligraphy art by grand masters and other renowned experts offers even more inspiration.

YUUKO SUZUKI began her study of calligraphy in Osaka at the age of six. For the past two decades she has taught Japanese art, calligraphy, painting, and Buddhist art. Her work is found in exhibits and private collections worldwide.

Size: 8 1/2" x 11" • 148 color & b/w images • 80 pp.

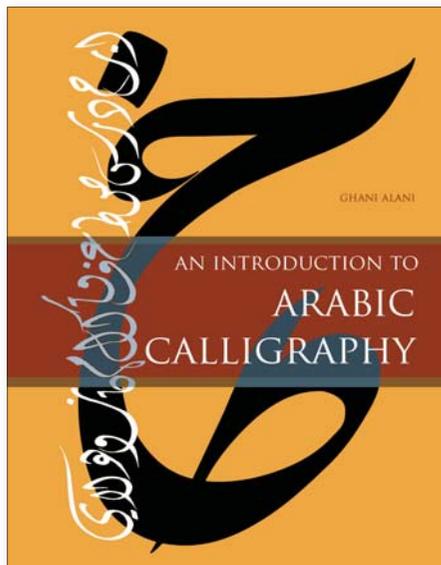
ISBN: 978-0-7643-5218-8 • hard cover • \$24.99

AVAILABLE IN DECEMBER



AN INTRODUCTION TO ARABIC CALLIGRAPHY

Ghani Alani



- A world master teaches you the equipment, basics, and how to create art from 28 letters
- 304 images show inspiring color masterpieces, and also step-by-step basic strokes to practice
- Helps you understand the 7 major styles, from Kufic to Maghrebi

With a photo-rich teaching method that's welcoming to everyone, this introduction helps you use ink and a qalam—a traditional reed pen—to create flowing, timeless decorative lines of Arabic script. The book begins with the history behind this art that decorates writings and architecture worldwide. Master calligrapher Alani next shows you how to choose the materials and prepare your tools. After a quick introduction to how the Arabic language works, he guides you through exercises to help you successfully write the 28 Arabic letters, join them together, and finally assemble them into phrases. Once you have mastered the basics, explore creating graphic compositions in each of seven major styles (Kufic, Thuluth, Naskh, Persian, Turkish, Riqâa and Maghrebi). Sometimes it takes years to be able to decipher a composition, but meanwhile, you can enjoy its aesthetic beauty. This guide helps beginners, like centuries of people before them, create graceful, meaningful art from words.

GHANI ALANI'S work is in museums worldwide, and is featured in several films. Born in Iraq, he holds the Ijazé (calligraphy diploma) from H. el Badadi, grand master of the School of Baghdad, and H. el Hamedi, master of the School of Turkey.

Size: 8 1/2" x 11" • 304 color & b/w images • 80 pp.

ISBN: 978-0-7643-5173-0 • hard cover • \$24.99

AVAILABLE IN OCTOBER



Japanese calligraphy is one of the most celebrated and revered forms of artistic expression within Japanese culture. Also known as Shodo, which translates to "the way of writing," the tradition of calligraphy was first brought to Japan by China in the 6th century A.D. Since then, a style and technique unique to Japan formed, and it has been practiced by samurai, nobility, and ordinary people since. Truly notable calligraphic writing takes decades to master and can be valued as much as paintings and other forms of Japanese art. The practice is more than art; it's a harmonious and philosophical process. Shodo Japanese calligraphy gallery: hieroglyphs kanji, poetry kana. Sumi-e ink painting gallery. The Japanese calligraphy is one of the most popular fine arts of Japan. Calligraphical works are appreciated not less than products of painting. But this kind of the fine arts possesses also philosophical sense. In the simplest understanding the calligraphy is an art to write beautifully. The master creates a work of art by bamboo brush and inks on the rice paper. It transfers harmony and beauty. The parity of simple and graceful is embodied in calligraphical works as one of main principles of Japanese aesthetics wabi sabi. There is nothing casual in Japanese calligraphy. This fascinating book introduces Japanese calligraphy and gives practical instruction showing the way these two styles of writing are combined. The Japanese use two styles of writing at the same time: kanji - Chinese characters, which are ideograms, i.e. characters which symbolise ideas of things without saying their names, and kana - which are purely phonetic characters. A very basic introduction to Japanese calligraphy. This book has the same information as many others (history, tools, techniques), and while the basics of the tools and kana are covered well enough, kanji is only briefly touched upon, katakana is only mentioned, and the focus is on hiragana.