



Rogue Pens

The Calligraphers' Guild of Southern Oregon
www.roguepens.org
September, 2021

September usually brings life back to normal. Labor Day ends the summer vacation with children and teachers going back to school and traffic picking up during the day. 2021 has started smoothly, though with Covid cases rising in the county, normalcy may be further off than we think. Please be safe and consider wearing a mask whether you are vaccinated or not.

September is the month that represents the harvest which for gardeners has been challenging with the heat and smoke in the valley.

I hope that September also brings you time to create, challenge your skills, and submit more of your work to the newsletter. It is always exciting for everyone to see the artwork and creativity from other members.

Some days to contemplate:

- Sept 6 Rosh Hashanah: a Jewish holiday that marks the beginning of the New Year
- Sept.11 Patriot Day to honor and remember those who died in the attacks in 2011
- Sept 12 Grandparents Day: Blessings to them all
- Sept 15 Yom Kipper: holiest of Jewish holidays
- Sept 17 Constitution Day: adoption of the constitution in 1787
- Sept 19 International Talk Like a Pirate Day
- Sept 21 International Day of Peace
- Sept 22 The first day of Fall
- Sept 29 Michaelmas, an ancient Celtic 'Quarter Day' which marked the end of harvest.... not so anymore!

If anyone is interested in getting some guild business cards to hand out to friends, businesses or anyone who may be interested in learning about our guild, please contact Mary Danca.



Thoughts and aromas of Autumn



Goly Ostovar

Online and local resources:

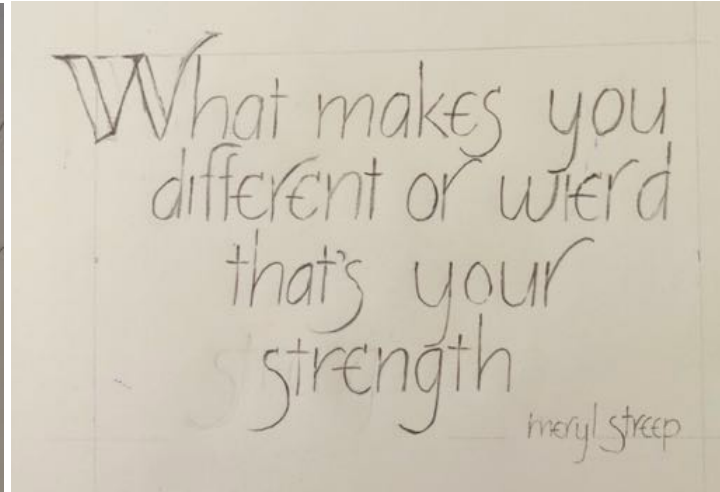
- Scrappy Craft: <https://artistatticsales.com/>
- Central Art Supply: <https://www.centralartsupply.com/>
- <https://www.strathmoreartiststudio.com/>
- https://www.johnnealbooks.com/prod_detail_list/online-classes
- <https://www.skillshare.com/browse/calligraphy>



Eleanor Lippman: two lovely cards



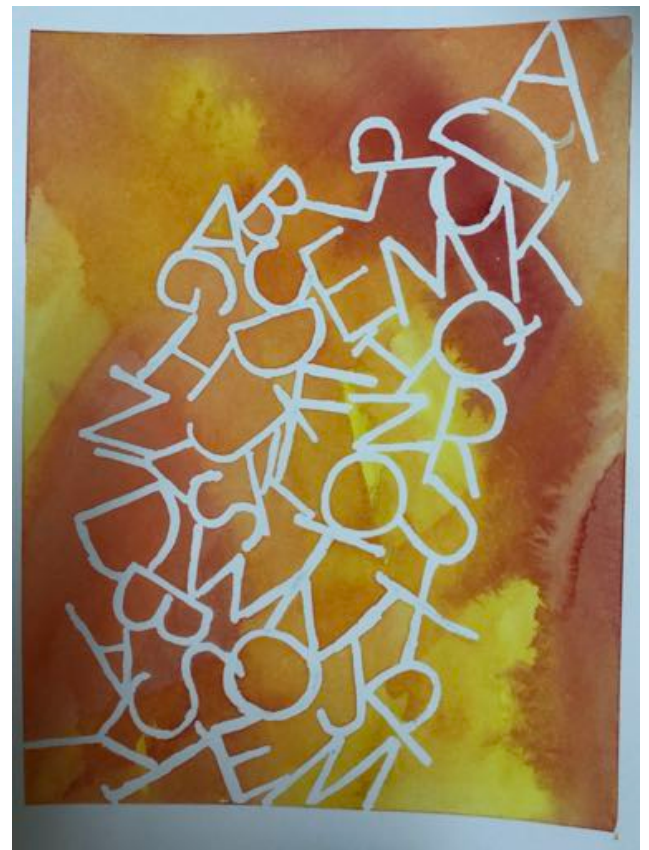
Cynthia Griffin



Mary Danca



Cynthia Griffin....using creativity in business correspondences.



Mary Danca

These are universal questions we artists often ask ourselves when we face a new day in the studio. How do we start when we are seemingly out of ideas? I am thrilled to say that I recently attended an online master lecture series called "Painting With Words" by Donald Jackson which was hosted by society for calligraphy where 500 people from around the world joined and exchanged ideas.

Donald Jackson is a British calligrapher and the official scribe and calligrapher to the Crown. He is also the artistic director of The Saint John's Bible which is a hand lettered and hand illuminated Bible commissioned by the monastery of Saint John's Abbey in Minnesota. He is the author of *The Story of Writing and The Calligrapher's Art*. Donald spoke to us about his early studies and training, his inspiration and influences, and how he got into using traditional materials and techniques. I would like to share some of my notes which I took while he was speaking and also my own personal reflections on this topic. These are not direct quotes by Donald Jackson but my take on the essence of what he shared with us during his lecture.

So much of what happens to us and what we decide to create is about life as we experience it. Life, he said, is about timing and we just happen to be in a certain place at a certain time. We are influenced, shaped, and formed by those experiences. We have a reservoir of memories that serve us as inspiration and we just need to dip our pen and brush into that reservoir to get ideas flowing. We need to imagine ourselves writing and painting and creating, and images will start to emerge. The ideas don't need to be fully developed or clear. We need to prime that well by putting pen to paper and ideas will develop.

As soon as we start making marks and we allow the ink or the paint to flow onto the paper we sense a flood of ideas and a rush of emotions will be. We need the feel of the pen in our hand, and we need to hear the sound it makes as it moves on the paper. This is the time that all of our other senses will get stimulated and will join the movement. What is that feeling that comes over us when we are making marks? And what is that sensation that we feel when we are creating? It is often called the state of flow, where our mind is fully immersed in our activity and all judgment is suspended and time begins to fly.

The actual process of flow was discovered by psychologist Mihaly Csiksgentmihalyi in the 1960s who monitored and studied the creative process and discovered that when artists are in that zone which he coined the "flow state", they would stay with their work and ignore hunger, thirst, pain, and fatigue. He also noted that artists would lose interest when their work is finished, which he interprets as the process of creating being more important than the actual product.

These feelings during the flow state are personal for each of us. We all know that creativity is far beyond making a pretty card or writing a quote in our best calligraphic hand. Creativity is rooted deep in the our souls. Words, shapes, colors, and designs are merely products generated during that time can be traced back the source where they were waiting like a spring to find its way to the surface.

Another subject that Donald Jackson emphasized was the concept of follow through and momentum. He said that they are the essence of gaining control later on with our tools. It's all about being fully involved with your whole body. to make the pen or the brush an extension of your body as well as your spirit. He said that we are fully wired to process the experiences that are stored inside of us without even knowing that it is happening.

I additionally think that we are all informed by our environment, our culture, and our ancestors as well as our present state of being. Inspiration rests in a deep reservoir within us and when we ask for it we will be rewarded and amazed by how easily we were able to gain access to them. Let's picture ourselves as children and find memories of how we became drawn to calligraphy or art in general. Finding these crystal clear moments of when we held our first pen or brush or that first art lesson, can trigger the flow of energy once again. .

Some of us are fortunate to have been encouraged to continue and some of us who might have been discouraged at an early age, do find our way back to creativity later in life. I believe we are all artists in different stages of development. We need to honor our personal stage of artistic development and find what gets our "ink" flowing. We need to look at examples, take classes, find practice buddies, form study groups, and cultivate our personal style to emerge.

Once we have an idea, our next question will be: "**How can I express my Idea creatively?**" and this is often followed by another question: "**Is my art relevant in today's world?**"

I often feel like there is an elephant staring at me in my studio while I am painting a pretty landscape, or practicing my italics and uncial letters. I keep asking myself if I am being an ostrich hiding my head in the sand while our beautiful planet is on fire, a pandemic is surging, another war might be escalating, and on top of all that we have our own culture war right here in our own valley? How can I concern myself with letter arts and calligraphy? Is my art relevant in todays world? Being fully present and engaged in the present moment is one of the ways we achieve this goal and it can be comforting and inspiring. I found that simply enjoying the aromas of cinnamon and cardamom in my kitchen lead to an idea in my sketch book. In the next article we will explore this topic and find a variety of ways to go from idea stage to production. I welcome your thoughts on this subject.

Notes and thanks from Eleanor Lippman:

At the June Calligraphy Guild picnic, we had a huge swap exchange that benefited the members who wanted to downsize and the members who were delighted to acquire new things. As promised, I took all of the "left overs" and handed them over to an employee here at Rogue Valley Manor whose husband is involved with a group of at risk teenagers. They were delighted to get the bags of goodies.

So if any of you have calligraphy or art supplies you no longer use and would like to see them go to this teen group, I will be glad to do so. Believe me, these supplies are very appreciated. No time line, just anything useful for these teens would be wonderful. Call or email me any time (Eleanor Lippman, 541 857 6521 or elippman@aol.com).

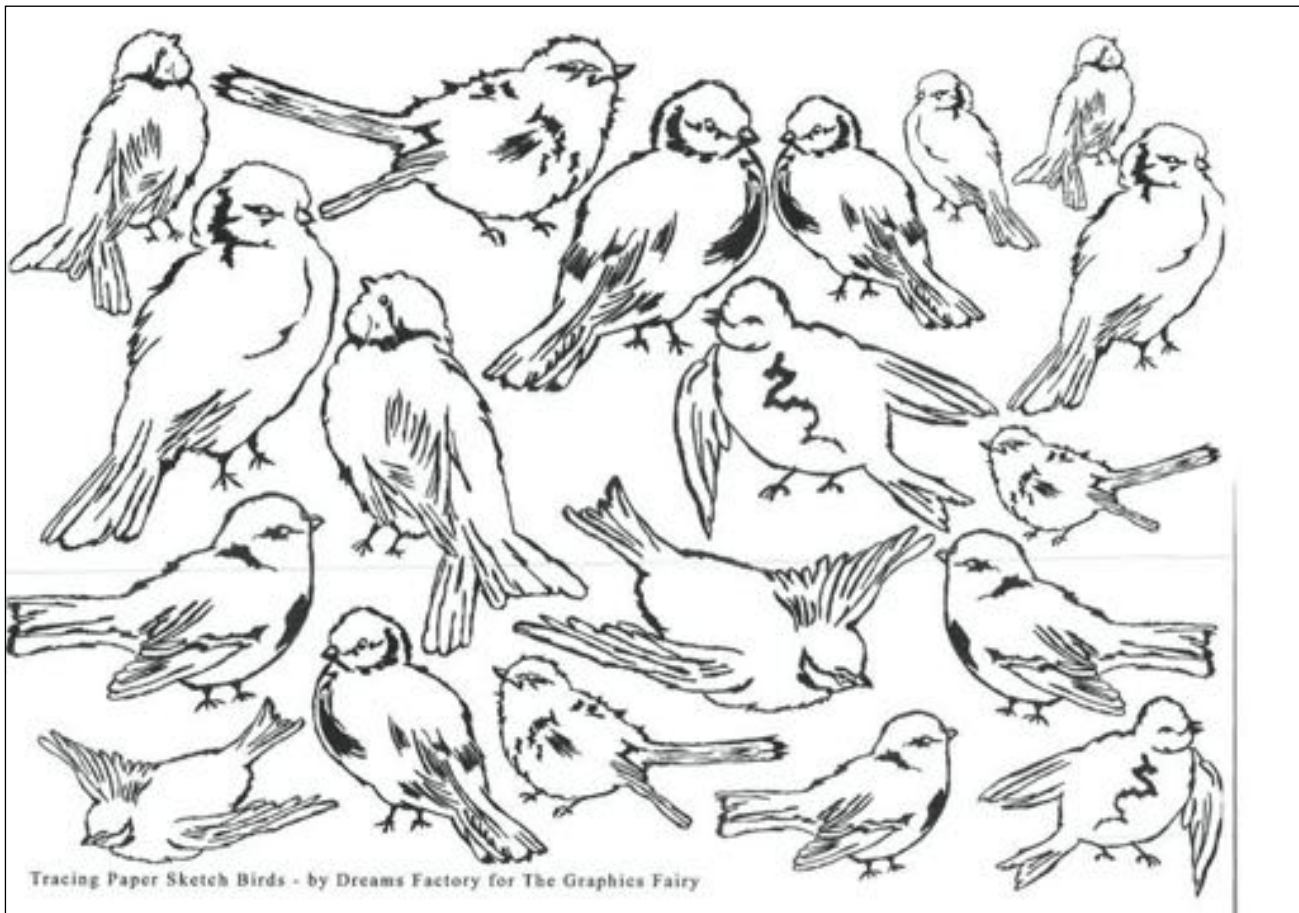
The group he works with is called **Life art**, which is a local organization that provides a safe space and art opportunities for teens, with the end focus being on suicide prevention.

Calligraphy Classes with Maurice Logue



The open calligraphy study group at Scrappy Craft that Maurice has been conducting throughout the summer will resume when Covid issues become less contagious and less dangerous. The cost is five dollars for each drop in lesson. Come and learn from Maurice who has been doing calligraphy for very long time. Hone your skill and become a part of the calligraphy art community. If you are interested in 'one on one' lessons with Maurice while classes are on hold, contact him directly at 541.841.4829 or email him at mauricelogue@gmail.com.

For those who love birds and want a variety to sketch, trace or draw...with thanks to "The Graphics Fairy"



I Dream of Flex

Eleanor Lippman

September 2021

For the longest time, I thought having a fountain pen with a flex nib would be helpful in improving my calligraphy skills.

Several inexpensive fountain pens are advertised as having a flex nib. I tried both the Noodler and the Monteverde brands and found them both lacking. Then a strange U-tube video popped up in my computer demonstrating a fountain pen with a flex nib and I could see it really appeared to be what I was looking for. With my birthday coming up, I figured, "Why not?" and decided to treat myself and try yet another fountain pen.

Admittedly, the pen had a tough break in period but I stuck with it. At first it wrote in a very scratchy manner but with patience and many, many circle and squiggly lines, the roughness disappeared. Now to try flexing! It worked beautifully except the nib seemed to run out of ink after writing a long sentence defeating the purpose of using a fountain pen.

I contacted the seller who imports these hand made pens from India and he recommended cleaning the nib. He even offered to send me a replacement nib if it didn't work. Bull dog as I am, I was determined to have this pen work properly. And, after holding the nib under warm water and replacing it, everything came together and I was the owner of a fountain pen with a true flex nib.

One must be cautious and careful in writing with this flex nib pen. It lays down very wet ink which is really needed so that the flex doesn't end up as a 'railroad line'. Once I learned to let the ink dry, I was very happy with the pen. It may be like learning to live with a new puppy. On making the first flex stroke, a blob of ink may show up. Best to practice the first few letters on a scrap paper. From then on it is a piece of cake (or a warm puppy).

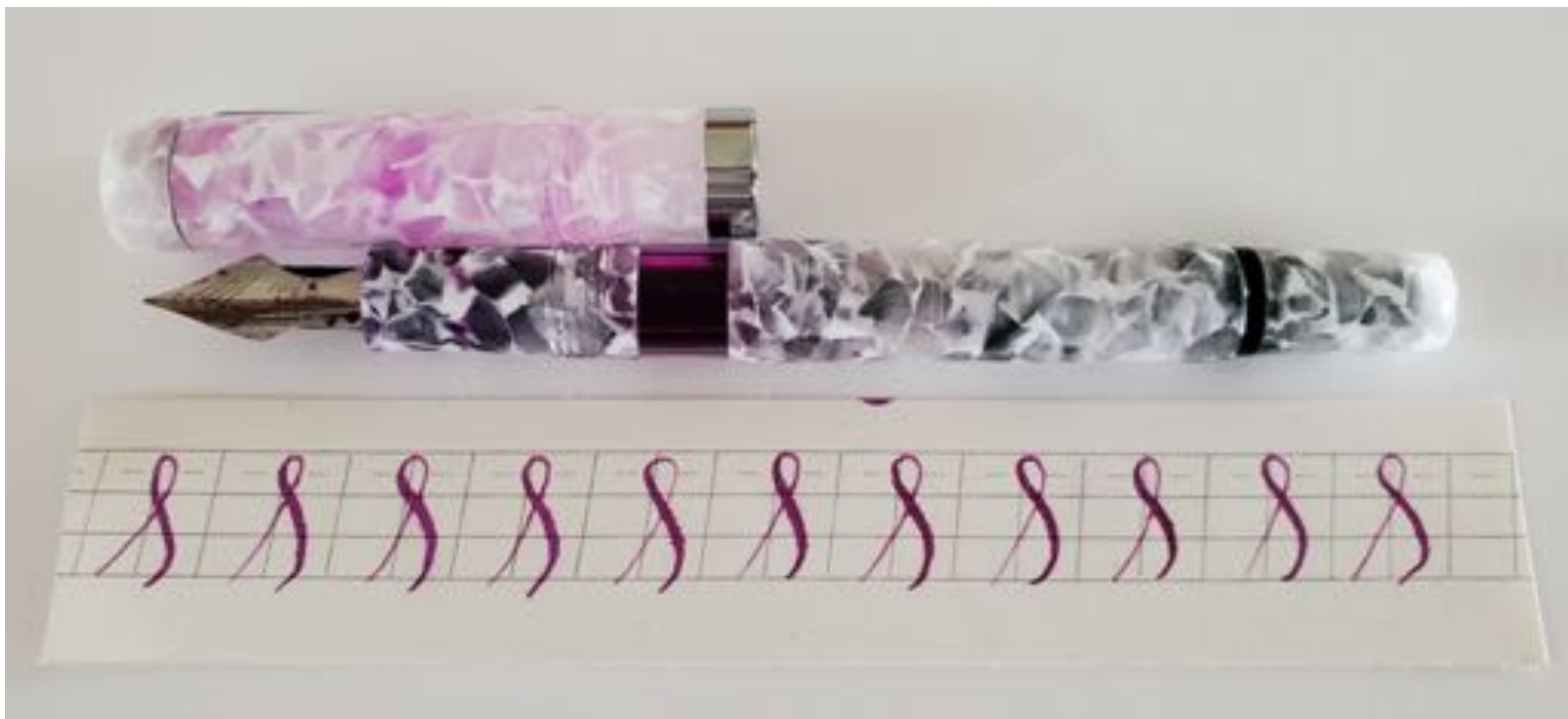
I ordered a pinky-violet bottle of their ink at the same time. The color is to die for, but it is very, very water soluble meaning that a drop of water or bit of moisture will make the ink "bleed" or dissolve. And spraying what I wrote with Matte Medium doesn't help at all. Too bad, but not a useful ink for calligraphy.

Vendor: Fountain Pen Revolution

Pen: Jaipur V2 with the flex nib (which costs a bit extra)

Cost: under \$70.

Bonus: it even came with a cute free fountain pen



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2021 Meeting Schedule Dates: 10 am-12 noon

JoAnn Evans has volunteered to present at the first 3 meetings

Sept 25 zoom Asemic lettering (no meaning lettering)
 Oct 23 zoom Tanzaku (similar to Weathergram)
 Nov 20 zoom Postcards (using lettering from above)
 Dec. party to be determined
 Jan 22 ?
 Feb 26 ?
 Mar 26 ?
 Apr 23 ?
 May 28 ?
 June 25 picnic



Happy September Birthday to our members:

Lola Daugherty	1	Birthstone: Sapphire
Eleanor Lippman	6	Flower: Aster, or Morning Glory
Goly Ostovar	12	
Diane Brown	16	
JoAnn Evans	30	

Who we are:

Our Guild is a nonprofit organization that was founded in 1975 to provide a forum for the study and critical practice of calligraphy through classes, workshops, lectures and the interchange of ideas and techniques.

We welcome all levels of skill. The Calligrapher's Guild currently holds monthly meetings and sponsors workshops, lectures, exhibits and related activities.

Meetings are held on the fourth Saturday of the month, 10:00AM to Noon at Scrappy Craft in Phoenix, Oregon.

No regular meetings are held in June, July or December (June is our Summer picnic, July is vacation and December is our Christmas Party). The August meeting is a planning meeting for the coming year's calendar. If you have questions or need further information you can contact anyone listed on this page or find us at Rogue Pens.org. or on Facebook at Rogue Pens.