

INKSPOTS

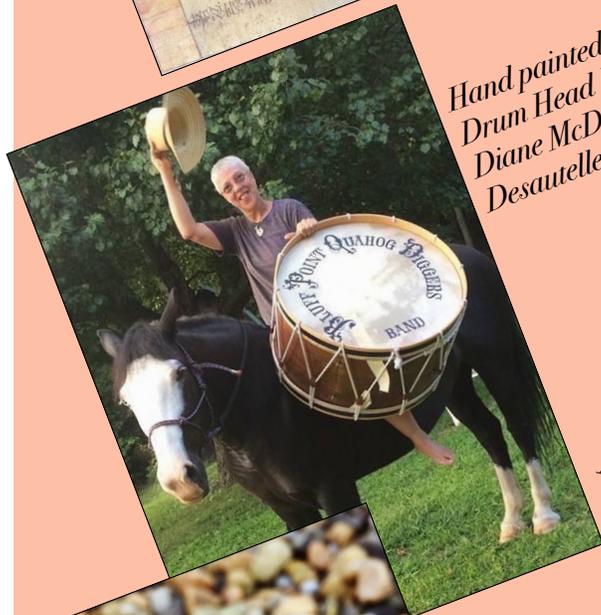
The Newsletter of Masscribes
Volume 30

PO Box 67132, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467
Issue 4 • Fall, 2015

*News, Notes and more
about the letter arts
in New England*



Yukimi Annand



*Hand painted
Drum Head by
Diane McDougall-
Desautelle*

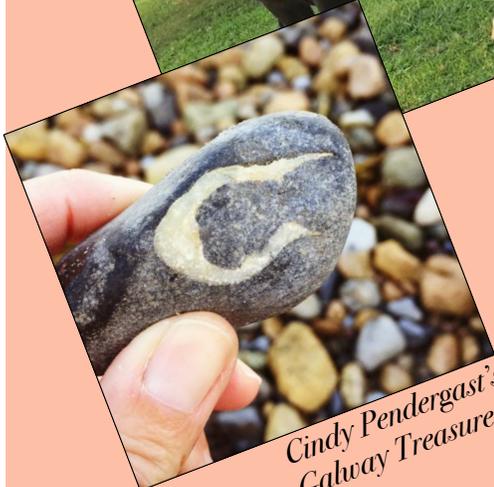
*The Creative
License -
A book review*



Nita Padamsee



Connie Chen



*Cindy Pendergast's
Galway Treasure*



*Amity Parks Workshop
coming in 2016!*

From the Editor

One of the gifts that come with life here in New England is the ever changing patterns and colors, and I don't just mean the seasons. Every day brings subtle shifts in the air. Shadows and light create new dimensions that inspire the creative eye to look more closely. With every dawn comes the tiniest, almost imperceptible transition. But if you stay in tune to your surroundings you can catch it in the way the leaves flutter on the trees. You can feel the textural sensations with every step. Roots grow into flowers, branches dry to twigs and if you really allow yourself, you can become a part of the Earth's alterations in every breath that enters your lungs.

Attending the workshop this



fall with Yukimi Annand, I came to see the amazing link between

artist and nature. Wisteria seed pods and rocks became mark making objects in our hands, opening a whole new window to expression. Yukimi's playful nature was infectious. If her visit was a sign of the Masscribes offerings for the coming year, I can say that we are a very lucky bunch.

Yes, every day is a season in itself. I encourage you to keep your eyes open, breathe in and enjoy the gifts. Until next time around, remember to live, laugh and letter.

Claire Griffin, Editor

griffinink@mac.com

President's Pen



Out with the old, I mean GOLD (Dan) and the SILVER haired Chris and in with the younger Cindy and Connie! Aren't we fortunate that Cindy and Connie have agreed to step up and fill president and vice president slots for Masscribes?! We can safely assume the election will go that way... no need for debates or campaign fundraising! This calligraphy guild, now tottering on the brink of turning 30, will benefit from the enthusiasm and energy of new people! Dan and I are just grateful that the organization has continued to provide amazing workshop opportunities by world renowned teachers! Thank you, Elissa and Nita! That little room overseen by moose has been the site of exciting moments of art evolving, diverse styles emerging after



invitations to have folks like Rosie Kelly, Yukimi Annand, Yves Leterme, Barbara Close, Mike Gold and of course Reggie Ezell be with Masscribes members!

And we continue to fund the Dancing Letters Scholarship Fund with a chance for young calligraphers to be attendees of a conference or class and learn and grow as we did! Thank you to the Board who has worked to have us thrive and plan.

Here's to more inking and collaborating and gathering over our mutual love of lettering!

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Roberts, Co President
October 2015

Masscribes is on Social Media

Join us on [Facebook](#) and don't forget to LIKE our page. Follow Masscribes on [Instagram](#) and tag your work with **#masscribes** to share with other letter lovers!



Instagram

Masscribes on social media is where we can share thoughts, stay in touch, learn something new and laugh with fellow scribes. With links to much more you can be inspired, gather tips and tools of the letter arts trade with friends and colleagues from New England and beyond.



President's Pen



Yesterday as I was working on the new gilding project for the Masscribes workshop next May, it started to snow here in Harwich Port! It brought back memories of the many days I sat here last winter in my studio coloring and gilding projects as the snow fell and fell and fell. Yes, it was a reminder that time moves forward and changes happen. I am so delighted that Cindy and Connie will be stepping up and adding some new passion to our awesome Masscribes organization.

It has been such a pleasure to be Co-President with Chris for the past few years and I am so grateful for the wonderful Board we have. They are all so enthusiastic and full of great new ideas and it is somewhat saddening that I will no longer be on board. Moving to the Cape has become a wonderful adventure for me as well as being so close to my son and his family here.

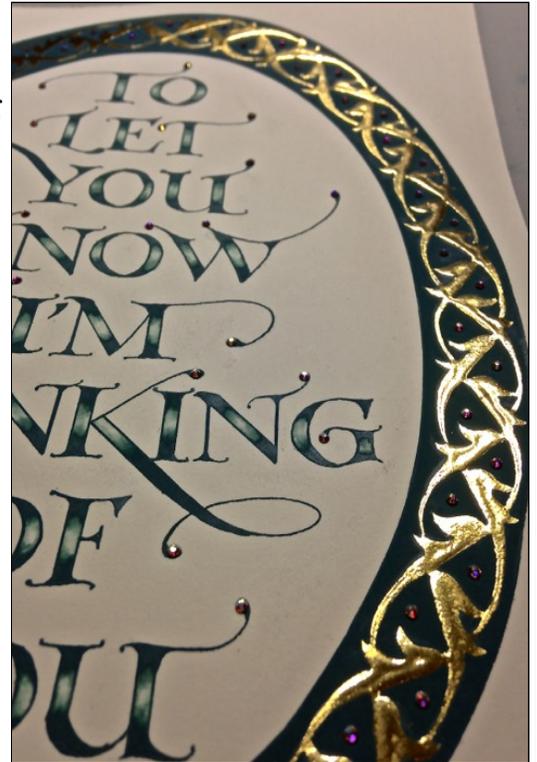
I think our greatest strength as a calligraphic community has been our outstanding workshops. Elissa and Nita have been an amazing team bringing in incredible teachers from all over the world and if you can sign up for any upcoming workshops, you are so fortunate to gain the knowledge of some great teachers. My personal feelings are that to be able to take a weekend off to play with ink or whatever and rid yourselves of the mundane weekend chores is a mental holiday! I have



enjoyed being on the Board and thank you for so much support and inspiration through these years. I would like to encourage each of you to consider volunteering to be a hand in the wonderful organization called Masscribes.

Thanks again for all your support and look forward to all the incredible Masscribes events coming in 2016!

Dan Mooney, Co-President
October 2015



MASSCRIBES
NEW ENGLAND CALLIGRAPHY ORGANIZATION

&

sa SHOWROOM
STONE AGE GRANITE
286 Bailey Street
Canton, MA 02021

Present...

...An exhibit exploring the creative letter
arts by members of Masscribes
New England Calligraphy Organization.

November 9, 2015 - December 30, 2015

at the all new location of the
Stone Age Granite Showroom
286 Bailey Street, Canton, MA

Hours: 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays
or by request call 781-436-5354

Artists Reception
Saturday, November 21, 2015
3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
refreshments and light fare

P.O. Box 67132 • Chestnut Hill, MA 02167 • www.masscribes.org

Save the Date

November 21, 2015

3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Artists Reception

The Nature of Letters Exhibit

Stone Age Granite Showroom

286 Bailey Street • Canton, MA

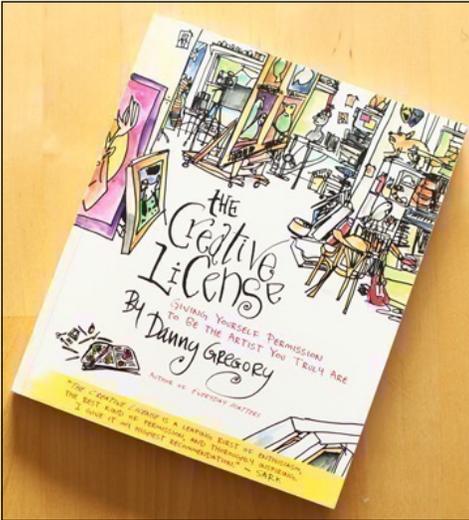
Exhibit runs from November 9, 2015 to December 30, 2015

Join friends and fellow Masscribes members for refreshments surrounded by beautiful calligraphy. For more information contact info@masscribes.org

The Creative License

Giving Yourself Permission to Be the Artist You Truly Are
by Danny Gregory

A book review by Carole Roy



I hardly even need to write a review, do I? If this book was in your hands now you'd already be turning to one of those chapters. Mine was Chapter 5: Resistance. Danny Gregory seemed to walk me gently through the terrain of excuses, procrastination, perfectionism, obligation, and time wasters, neutralizing each block with a simple way to move into action, or a great analogy that shifts the perspective from overwhelming to "Wow, that sounds fun!" This book is like an art school foundation program taught by a motivation coach. And it's beautiful.

Each page is hand lettered. Pen and ink drawings are brought to life with a little watercolor. By page 43 he has taught you to draw, then does just what he proposed: guides you to allow yourself to be

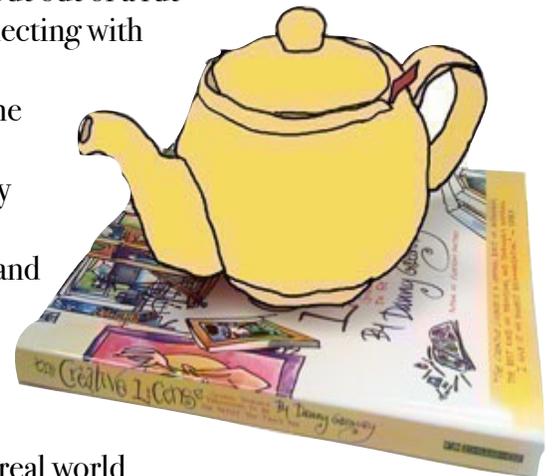


the artist you truly are, to quiet the critical voice most of us acquire in elementary school. That is pretty much the rest of the 198 page book; I couldn't put it down.

Its fun and inspiring from someone who has been there. Written from the paint, pen, and pencil artist's point of view, the musician and writer can also appreciate this kind of joyful creativity. Maybe you'll find that your artist is much bigger than you thought.

Here is the Table of Contents:

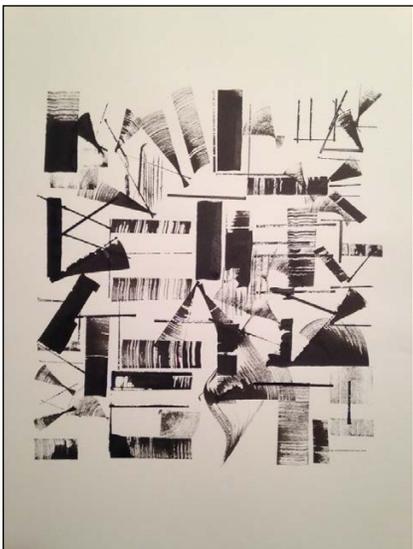
1. Drawing: kickstarting your creativity and learning to see
2. Journaling: making creativity into a habit
3. Shock: Blasting your but out of a rut
4. Sensitization: re-connecting with reality
5. Resistance: winning the fight to go on
6. Judgment: from enemy to ally
7. Identity: who you are and why that's fine
8. Expanding: Broadening your creativity
9. Next: creativity in the real world



My Yukimi Annand Experience

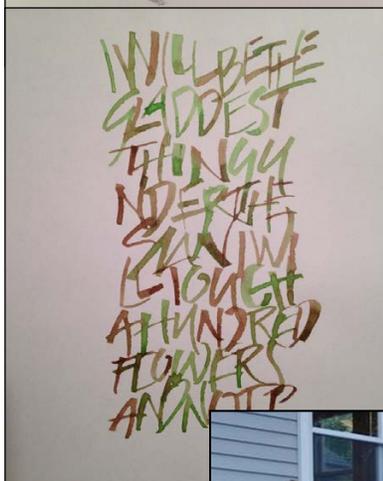
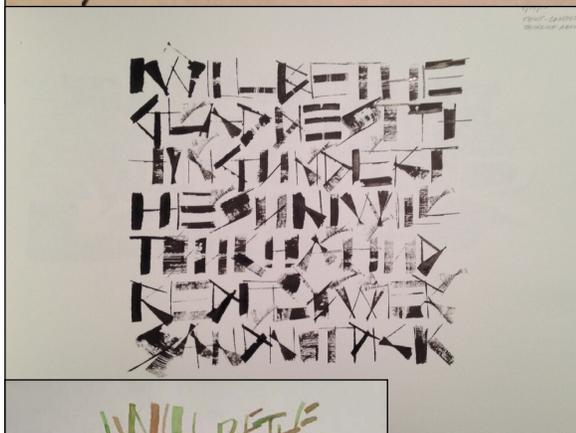
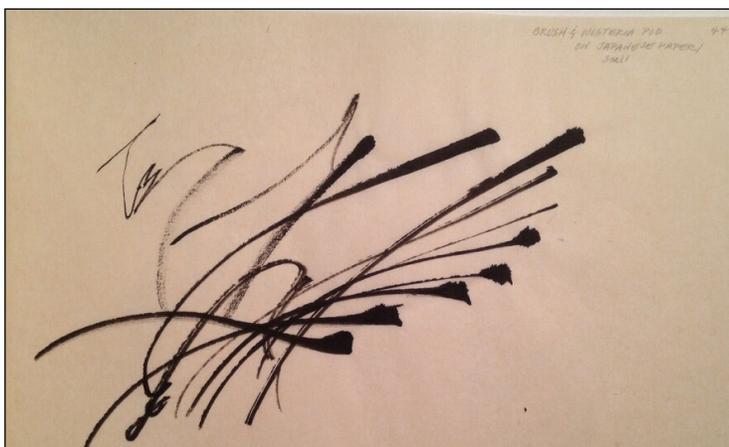
A Masscribes workshop review

by Eileen McAllister



I arrived at Yukimi Annand's "Text and Texture" workshop on Friday morning outfitted with supplies. The required 8 1/2" x 14" Strathmore series 300 drawing paper, Arches black cover, black Canson Mi-Teintes, pencils, sumi ink, watercolor tubes, brushes, rocks, shells, twigs and an assortment of other recommended materials filled my bags and boxes.

I left on Sunday evening toting a book bound with binder clips, and within its handsome Canson covers and dividers were most of my workshop practice sheets arranged in sequential order. I felt like I hit the jackpot having this collection to take



and trusting our efforts to express our best selves—all bits of wisdom that I carefully packed and carried away from the Sportsman's Club.

home—a kind of oversized flip book at the ready that charted the progression of this engaging class.

In the days that followed, I returned to the book to look at and think about the exercises and could easily recall

Yukimi's gentle instructions and encouragement. I especially appreciated her emphasis on concentration, and during her demonstrations I watched as she deliberately directed her focus and attention to her

first mark and all those that followed. With her text memorized, she worked fluidly and gracefully. In her conversations with the class and in her excellent handouts, she talked about making thoughtful and meaningful marks, drawing on our skill and experience,

Eileen's samples from the workshop



The whole group with Yukimi

Custom Fitting your Oblique Penholder...

Custom Grip Oblique Holders

By Connie Chen

You and I have different grips. And no universal grip oblique

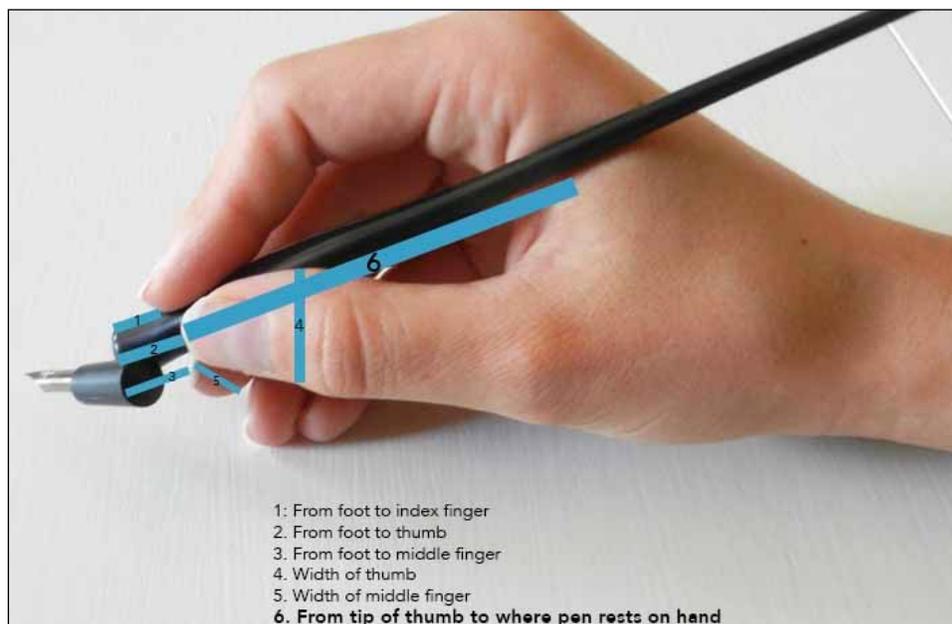


Customizable penholder block with a Zaner inspired rabbit flourish.

can accommodate that. After trying every available oblique holder, ergonomic and regular, I could not satisfy my writing callus and my search for comfort. I noticed that instead of my tool accommodating me, I changed my grip and the way I wrote depending on the holder. So my boyfriend and I set out to make a perfect oblique holder customized to the exact specifications of my grip.

Our journey began with making a clay mold of my grip and understanding what measurements are required to hand carve a custom grip oblique. We sculpted the wood until it resembled the mold. Several prototypes later, we decided on a shape that is nimble in the foot of the holder, and full in the grip.

I took the holder for its first ovals and compound curves and I was amazed at what it can do in my hand! It was just me and my nib gliding on the paper. This oblique truly became what a writing tool is supposed



- 1: From foot to index finger
- 2: From foot to thumb
- 3: From foot to middle finger
- 4: Width of thumb
- 5: Width of middle finger
- 6: From tip of thumb to where pen rests on hand

The six measurements we request to hand carve a custom grip oblique.

to be— an extension of our arms. After taking the penholder through 15 steps of sanding and 10 layers of lacquer finish, I brought it to my mentor Master Penman William A. Lilly. He was the first to make ergonomic and



Prototype of custom grip oblique for the left-handed Master Penman John DeCollibus.

regular oblique holders after the Zanerian College closed and gave me valuable suggestions to perfect my humble creation.



The finished product for John DeCollibus.

Subsequently a few requests came from my calligraphy friends to make custom grip obliques, we decided to offer them so everyone can experience what it feels like when the tool is made to fit the calligrapher's hand. We ask for six measurements of the placement of the oblique holder on your hand so it's truly customized to fit your grip. We are no wood-carving experts but I hold and write in different scripts with each holder we make before lacquering to ensure the maximum comfort.

Since then, I have designed several paint holder lines—floral, flourishing, and Chinese



Hand painted Sakura design from my floral collection.

...merging form, function and fashion



Some of the woods offered for custom grip oblique holders, (front to back) walnut, black and white ebony, holly, and red heart

experimented with several ideas and decided to offer personalized flourish designs on penholder blocks. The hand engraved designs are inspired by the masters of penmanship and

are sealed with wax to preserve the appearance of the wood.



A piece by Connie Chen using one of her custom grip oblique pens.

horoscopes—and am always happy to take on custom requests. As the numbers of my own holders grew, I stumbled on a problem for storage since the sizes of my finials are bigger than regular lathe turned holders. We



More information on Custom Grip Oblique Holders is available on connie-chen.com

Customizable penholder block with a Dennis inspired bird flourish.

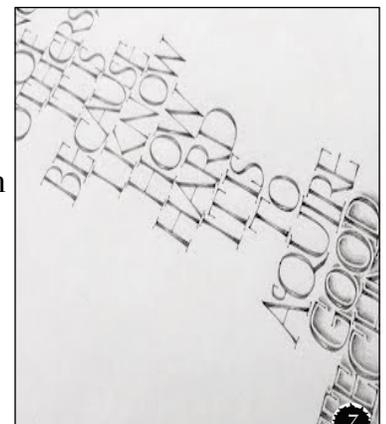
Coming in 2016 From the Workshop Committee



AMITY PARKS is coming to Boston bringing "A Sharp Pencil and a Keen Eye"

In this class, the humble pencil and its relatives become powerful tools in creating many effects from subtle to stunning. We will use pencils, erasers, graphite sticks/blocks, powdered graphite and their water-soluble cousins to explore the gifts of this medium for creating refined works of art to quickly made drawings in our sketchbooks. We will experiment with line quality and shading with each tool to discover the marks it can produce, then move on to drawing letters and designing word groups, both formal and casual. We'll explore integrating our letters with their backgrounds into designs that will grab our viewer's eye.

Amity Parks lives in Missoula, Montana. For years she has been studying calligraphy with internationally renowned instructors. She holds a BFA from the U of Tulsa, and an MFA from the U of Montana. Her work has been in national and regional exhibits and publications. She has been a long-term teacher in her local and state guilds and travels in the US and internationally serving on the faculty for the International Lettering Arts Conference in 2014 and 2015. Amity spends hours in her studio on her personal and creative work, finding a balance between teaching commitments, her business and her busy family life. More information is on Facebook and at her website, www.amityparks.com.



A Local Art Store Treasure Trove...



The logo for SMFA Boston Art Store features the letters 'smfa' in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font with a red shadow effect, set against a solid red square. Below this, the words 'BOSTON Art Store' are written in a black, uppercase, serif font.

smfa BOSTON Art Store

I recently started a drawing class at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston where I found the art supply store, a treasure trove of supplies in a space the size of a small one-car garage with wonderful staff members. The store is open to the public and you do not have to be a student or MFA Member.

Here are some of the things that they carry and a few prices that are current as of October 21, 2015.

General, Holbein Acryla Gouache, Winsor & Newton Gouache, W & N colored inks, Higgins inks, Sennelier ink (31 colors) Speedball C nibs (right handed only), crow quill nibs, Tradio pens, water brushes, Pentel Color brushes, Parallel Pens. **Markers:** Brush markers: New W & N watercolor brush pens,

Flex marker, Pigma brush marker, Pitt Big Brush and regular Pitt Markers, loose and sets. Pigma markers in many colors and sizes.

Paper: Strathmore 400 roll paper in 42 x 10 yards for \$16.95. great to letter on for a very large project that I recently completed. They also have a large selection of Japanese washi papers including kozo rolls, sheets (light and heavy weight). I bought a Mulberry paper in a 38-inch by 33-foot roll for \$19.95, which I have been playing with for the past couple of weeks, making marks on it, collaging it and painting it. **Other papers:** especially of interest to calligraphers:

MBM Ingres, 100 lb, 19x25, \$3.95 per sheet, Arches Text Wove, 19x25, \$2.45 and 25x40 \$4.70, Arches Cover, white, buff and black, St Armand, Somerset in colors, Rives BFK, Heavy weight and Light weight, Arches and Fabriano Watercolor paper, Canson Edition drawing paper, \$2.75, Canson Mi Tiente in many colors, \$1.95, Fabriano Tiziano, \$1.85, Lami Li and other decorative papers.



Hours: Monday - Thursday- 8:30 am to 8 pm, Friday- 8:30 to 5 and Saturday- 8:30 to 2 pm.

A note about parking: there are

metered spaces on the streets surrounding the Gardner Museum and MFA that tend to be available mornings before the museum opens at 10 am. There is also the MFA garage around the corner.

Make a day of it!
*Shop at the SMFA
Art Store, eat at the
Gardner Café and
take in an exhibit
at the MFA!*

Monica Dengo... Unique and Imperfect

A Conference Workshop Review

By Nita Padamsee

At the 2015 calligraphy conference in Sonoma, California, I had the good fortune of studying with Monica Dengo, whose work I have admired for many years. Monica lived and worked in San Francisco, California from 1993 to 2003 and currently lives in Arezzo, Italy. The topic for the week was 'Unique and Imperfect'.

We compared and explored gestures and



movements of mark making. We used pencil, water color graphite pencil, pointed brush, flat brush, ruling pen and any other writing tool that we wanted to experiment with. The final book was done with both full strength and watered down sumi ink and one gouache color. We developed different ways of holding a pen or a brush with new relations between



the newly developed gestures. The course was devoted to a spontaneous approach to writing, closer to handwriting than to the controlled movements of traditional calligraphy.

For our final book, each student chose the tool they liked best and solely used that tool for their final book. I had just bought the Luthis Polillita, or Moth pen, at JNB and was anxious to try it. Luthis Pens, from Argentina are folded metal pens for expressive writing and formal calligraphy. The tips are aluminum; the handles are unfinished wood and they are approximately 6" long. Four styles are offered, and each writes differently. They hold ink really well, are smooth and have a nice bounce to them when you write. It turned out to be my favorite tool, as I used it for my final book, which I put together using stab binding.



I'm not much of a book arts aficionado, but the challenge of incorporating calligraphic marks, planning the layout, balancing black, white, grey and a color so that this book could be viewed in more ways than



one, was just fascinating and terrifying at the same time! Our class had 20 participants, but Monica gave us all individual attention to help put these books together. This book worked, front to back and back to front. You can stand it up on the table, and when seen from above, it looks like a star. It can even be hung to give it a totally new look. Mission accomplished!

Nita Padamsee

News, Notes & Nibs from Masscribes members...

Have you ever experienced a truly divine moment that stops you in your tracks, a moment that causes you to realize that you are part of a bigger picture? This happened to me with the simple discovery of a small rock while on a service trip in Ireland last August.

I was walking on Galway Bay at low tide the evening before my birthday. As a lover of rocks my eyes were searching. I usually look for rocks that have a marbled "ribbon". When I spotted this particular rock all I could see were the tips of the "C". When I picked it up I couldn't believe my eyes. I took a photo to capture the moment and if you look close you can see the water line. I instantly knew that this was truly a divine moment. *A calligrapher named Cindy holding a rock marbled with a Celtic looking letter "C" in Ireland. I was holding a priceless birthday gift from God!*

I am convinced that God crafts divine moments specific to each of us all the time - priceless opportunities for us to actively engage in God's big-picture plan. Be on the lookout! Be present in each moment of your day. Who knows, YOU may be the divine moment in someone else's life!

Cindy Pendergast



Inspiration worth falling for...

Artist and fellow Masscribe Member, Susan Kapsisnski Gaylord is inspired by many sights in our world. She sees beauty in the smallest things surrounding us every day. For instance, take the image of a tiny dried hydrangea. In it's simplicity she found the inspiration she needed.

Susan will be teaching a much anticipated workshop in November on creative book play. I for one cannot wait for the opportunity to work beside Susan and absorb some of her insight into the wonder around us as well as her enthusiasm.

Claire Griffin

Marching to the Beat of a Beautiful Drum

Anyone who attended the 2014 Masscribes Brunch can remember hearing Diane McDougall-Desautelle talk about her process



as she painted a custom design on the first of eight vellum drum heads for the Bluff Point Quahog Diggers Band. As most calligraphers can attest, lettering on vellum is challenging.

So one can imagine what working three-dimensionally is like, but Diane took us through her progress. I for one was left wanting to see the final product. We caught a peek of Diane's finished creation in action this summer. Photographed by *Sally Rothenhaus*, the drum is a sight to behold! If it sounds as great as it looks, and surely it does, it's a huge success all around. What an accomplishment, Diane.



Tell us what is on your desk today

Let your fellow Masscribes know.

Just send in a brief update with jpg images to Inkspots editor, Claire

Griffin at griffinink@mac.com



The Masscribes community recently lost long time member, Anne Mausolff. Anne so loved letter arts that she graciously left us her huge collection of books. Some of the books are now in the Masscribes library and some have found new homes with members. Thank you, Anne.

Anne Mausolff 1923-2014

Obituary

Anne peacefully "climbed the next mountain for a new view" June 8, 2014 of natural causes. Teacher, calligrapher, artist, poet, skier, hiker, leader of cross country bike and ski trips, dowser, reiki master, railroad line grader, woodswoman, role model, healer, mystic, Smith College Art Librarian and nun for 25 years to age 43.

An eclectic, Anne was a student of ancient religions and civilizations, languages both written and spoken, the arts, and esoteric readings. She read, discussed, critiqued and encouraged others in the expression of their creativity. Always generous in lending a helping hand she was cheerfully available to her friends and community.

Anne enjoyed a deeply reverent connection to nature as seen in her outdoor activities and life-style choices. She was recognized for being an Appalachian Trail end-to-end 2,000 miler, and as a '111'er of the Northeastern USA for having climbed all the major peaks of that region. The majority of her hiking was during her 7th decade - continuing into her 9th decade! She was often sighted carrying a full pack on Andover's trails and roads well into her 70's. Anne lived consciously in harmony with the earth in her octagonal Andover home of 38 years which she built with the assistance of her father, Alfred Mausolff, and friends. She resided the last few months of her incredibly full life at Valley Cares Assisted Living in Townshend, VT. In March, Anne presented the art of packing a back pack to the residents, hoisting the full pack to her back at the completion.

Anne is survived by her brother, Tom Mausolff, of California, seven nieces and nephews, Edna Northrup, her hiking and traveling companion of 30 years, and a multitude of friends and acquaintances.

A life celebration was held graveside for Anne on June 15, 2014 presided over by Reverend John Bliss. It was followed by a gathering at the Baba-A-Louis Bakery where Anne and friends met many Wednesday afternoons, to deliberate on The Nation magazine's crossword puzzle. Donations can be made to Brattleboro Volunteer Hospice, Vermont Public Radio or your favorite charity.

Published in Rutland Herald on Aug. 24, 2014



Inkspots

wants you to hear and share what's up with Masscribes members. Started any new projects, cool tools or shows you'd like to talk about? Send your news and images

(300dpi "jpg") in to info@masscribes.org or griffinink@mac.com.

REMINDER...The deadline for the next issue of Inkspots is January 15, 2016

Dates to Remember...

November 7th, 2015 - Book Play with Susan K. Gaylord

A total of 15 participants signed up. This workshop is free for Board members and \$25 for Masscribes members.

November 12, 2015 - General Meeting -

First Baptist Church, 71 Bond St, Norwood, 7 to 9 p.m. Members are encouraged to attend and vote for various board positions. We will host a panel discussion about "The Business of Calligraphy".

April 9 & 10, 2016 - Amity Parks, A Sharp Pencil and a Keen Eye

Watch for a flyer with more information on this creative take on texture effects using graphite.

May 21 & 22, 2016 - Dan Mooney, Gilding

This 2 day workshops sure to be a great event! Watch for a flyer with more information.

2016 calligraphy conference!

Summer, 2016 will be upon us in no time. Start planning for a gathering of calligraphers from around the world.

"A Show of Hands", will take place from June 26 - July 2, 2016 at Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, North Carolina. Enjoy mountains, green landscape and the company of fellow letter lovers. Find new discoveries, old friends and southern hospitality. For more information and to register for your spot check out the website, www.AShowofHands2016.com

a show of
hands

INKSPOTS

...is looking for your
Holiday Card Designs

members for our next issue. Masscribes can send in a favorite image (300 dpi JPG) of a card to share and watch for in our print winter issue. For more information or to send in your image to griffinink@mac.com.

Artwork and Article Contributors

Nita Padamsee • Claire Griffin • Chris Roberts • Dan Mooney • Elissa Barr • Connie Chen • Cindy Rudolph • Yukimi Annand • Amity Parks • Eileen McAllister
Cindy Pendergast • Diane McDougall Desautelle

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NEW ENGLAND CALLIGRAPHY ORGANIZATION