



THE FRIENDS OF CALLIGRAPHY PRESENT A WORKSHOP WITH

# ANDREW VAN DER MERWE Rhythm & Technique in Calligraphy

FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 5 & 6, 2019 • 9:30 — 4:30  
FORT MASON, SAN FRANCISCO • \$275.00 MEMBERS (\$295.00 NON-MEMBERS)



PLEASE SEND YOUR check, payable to Friends of Calligraphy, postmarked no earlier than August 15, 2019, to Carl Rohrs, 103 Annie Lane, Santa Cruz CA 95062. Please include your email address & phone number. OR enroll through PayPal on our FOC Classes web page at [www.friendsofcalligraphy.org/pages/classes.html](http://www.friendsofcalligraphy.org/pages/classes.html). Scroll to the RHYTHM & TECHNIQUE IN CALLIGRAPHY workshop and click on the Pay Now link. Enrollment is limited to 18 participants. If more than 18 enrollments are postmarked or made by August 15, 2019, 18 participants will be selected in a blind lottery from those enrollments. FOC members will be given priority. To join FOC, include a separate check for \$40 or join by PayPal on the FOC Join web page: [www.friendsofcalligraphy.org/pages/join.html](http://www.friendsofcalligraphy.org/pages/join.html). Workshop fees are refundable until September 10, 2019; after that date, only if your space can be filled from a waiting list. Questions? Please contact Carl at [rohrrs@baymoon.com](mailto:rohrrs@baymoon.com) or 831 429-8849.

**T**HIS WORKSHOP IS for anyone noticing their pen wanting to go somewhere different than where they're aiming it. It's about bringing the pen's desire and yours together — to have your pen fly, glide and land with speed, purpose and precision.

Unlike dance or music, calligraphy produces a static result that can be dissected, measured and reconstructed according to the measurements. Pen angles, x-heights, proportions, axis, entasis, etc. are important as training wheels or scaffolding, but ultimately calligraphy is *movement*. Good structure is important, but the holy grail of calligraphy is speed and grace of movement.

The workshop will begin with an analytical study of the hand and arm, the pivot points, proclivities and limits, then go on to applying the fascinating concepts of ergonomics and kinaesthetics to calligraphy — ergonomics: how your work space and posture relate to your calligraphy right down to how it affects pen angle; kinaesthetics: sensing the body's ideal movement and posture for the natural production of specific features in your calligraphy.

Rhythm and speed also naturally affect the forms. Each style has its own rhythm . . . and its own *sound*. When you get the rhythm and speed — and the sound of it — right, you can *almost* do it blind!

Then we'll take a walk on the wild side with asemic writing, abandoning legibility and meaning, exploring pure movement. Apart from being a wonderful, therapeutic load of fun, asemic writing can inspire innovation and provide new perspectives on traditional calligraphy. It leaves you faced with naked form, noticing things you might miss when your writing is clothed in meaning.

You'll be introduced to historical sources of strange and wonderful writing — African, Greek, my own asemic beach calligraphy, the Voynich Manuscript, among others — and then sent on a journey of your own, either to invent a code, a conscript of your own, Latin letters with a twist, a pretend writing system or a fascinating hoax like we find in the Codex Rohoncz. — AvdM

*The class is suitable for ALL skill levels, beginners to advanced.*

Andrew offers these videos as examples of strong movement:

1. UNLUCKY — <https://youtu.be/TkAps9OamU>
2. FRANK — <https://youtu.be/UNI85Kb0vaM>
3. ME — <https://youtu.be/fz5t0vO7a4>
4. THE SPIRIT — <https://youtu.be/IANHZxNjQOA>  
(Please read the description under this last one.)

**ANDREW VAN DER MERWE** is an exciting & innovative free-lance lettering artist & zealot from Cape Town, South Africa. Please see *Alphabet*, volume 42, numbers 2 (Winter 2016) & 4 (Summer 2017), for in-depth articles about him and his work, both at the beach and on dry-land. — CR