

MASSIMO POLELLO

CADEL LETTERS, MODERN BEAUTY

Three days on Zoom
25 Participants
October 23, 25 and 27, 2023
9:30 am to 11:30 am PDT
Cost: \$90.00
All Levels Welcome



Cadels are basically blackletter capitals richly decorated with arabesques, composed of parallel and intertwining lines. The word *Cadel* comes from the French word *Cadeau* or gift, and is attributed to Jean Flamel, librarian to the Duke of Berry (1407), who used these great, decorated capitals to write the name of the Duke on the first page of each manuscript.



Without cadels, texts were often straightforward and unadorned. To add beauty and enchantment to the texts, versal letters were embellished with flourishes and arabesques. In the second half of the 15th century, cadels spread widely throughout northern Europe as single versals and during the 16th century, they appeared in texts in even more complex and ornate forms.

In more modern times, these embellishments have been considered superfluous or excessive and have largely been eliminated, going in the direction of stark. For me, there is an almost physical need for the beauty that had been appreciated in the past and I became fascinated with hyper-decorated letters. My interest in these letters is not limited to their elegance and opulence but also in their formal beauty of crossing lines and arabesques — pure enjoyment for the eyes.

The great variety and inventiveness of the cadels we find in manuscripts make it difficult to assemble a single complete alphabet. They are easier to draw than their complicated forms suggest. Their formal balance can take on a more abstract value. After studying cadels in their basic form, we will use them in abstract compositions.

MASSIMO POLELLO is a highly respected calligrapher and designer from Turin, Italy with over twenty years' experience. His work includes designing packaging, logos, interior design, and murals. He studied calligraphy at the Toulouse Scriptorium and with numerous calligraphers and internationally recognized master penmen. One of his specialties is studying historic writing models and drawing on them to produce contemporary work. He has taught at four international conferences as well as for Friends of Calligraphy. His work has been shown in many journals including *Letter Arts Review* and in various galleries throughout the world.

His web gallery is available at:
www.lacalligrafia.com

Participants must have the following:

- ❖ An electronic device: computer, smartphone, or tablet with camera & microphone.
- ❖ Access to a printer for handouts emailed before the workshop.
- ❖ The most recent Zoom application.
- ❖ Registration begins at 8 am PDT on Tuesday, September 12 at:
<https://www.friendsofcalligraphy.org/pages/classes.html>
- ❖ Scroll to Cadel Letters, Modern Beauty. Click "Pay Now."
- ❖ Only online payments accepted for this class. The class is limited to 25 participants. If more than 25 registrations are made on September 12, 2023, participants will be selected in a blind lottery from those registrations. FOC members have priority.
- ❖ To join FOC, go to:
www.friendsofcalligraphy.org/pages/join.html.
- ❖ **Workshop fees are refundable until October 9, 2023.** Refunds will be made after that date only if your space can be filled from a waiting list.
- ❖ **Questions?** Contact Elena Caruthers at:
elena.caruthers@gmail.com

