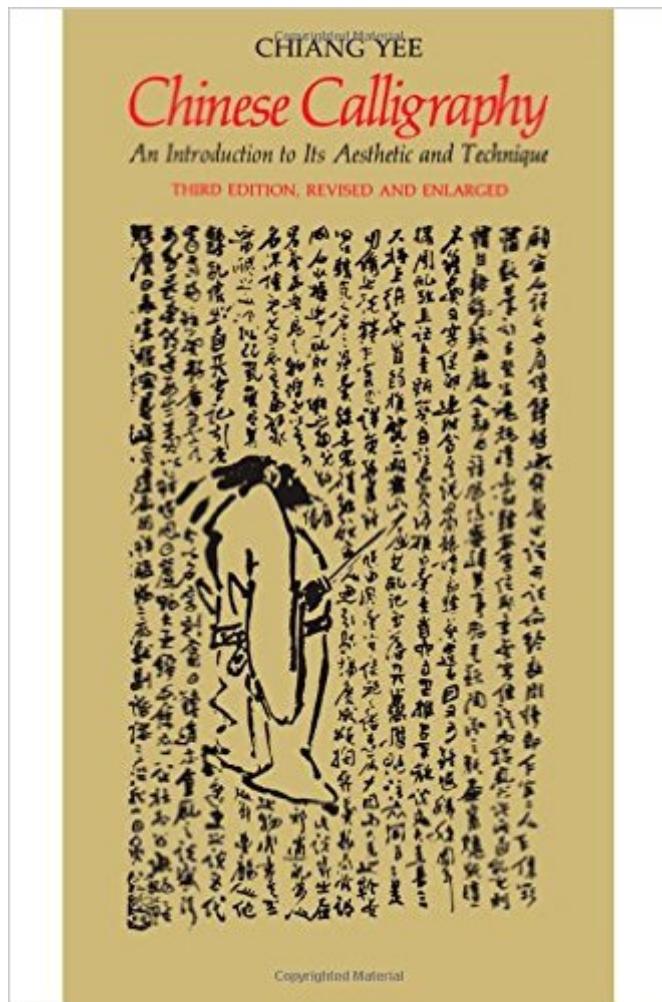


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Chinese Calligraphy: An Introduction To Its Aesthetic And Technique



Synopsis

This is the classic introduction to Chinese calligraphy. In nine richly illustrated chapters Chiang Yee explores the aesthetics and the technique of this art in which rhythm, line, and structure are perfectly embodied. He measures the slow change from pictograph to stroke to the style and shape of written characters by the great calligraphers. Speech and writing are two organs of the same human impulse--the conveyance of thought: the one operating through hearing, the other through sight; the one by sound from mouth to ear, the other by form or image from hand to eye. But each can do something besides convey thought. Spoken words can be so arranged as to discharge aesthetic "musical" significances, as in much Western poetry. Written words can be formed to liberate visual beauties; and it is these which form the subject of this book. In addition to aesthetic considerations, the text deals with such more practical subjects as the origin and construction of the Chinese characters, styles, technique, strokes, composition, training, and the relations between calligraphy and other forms of Chinese art. For the third edition the author has added two new chapters: "Calligraphy and Painting" discusses the dependence of Chinese painting on calligraphic training and techniques; "Aesthetic Principles" explores the fundamental concepts underlying every Chinese art form. Chinese Calligraphy is a superb appreciation of beauty in the movement of strokes and in the patterns of structure--and an inspiration to amateurs as well as professionals interested in the decorative arts.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As a Chinese brush painting teacher I would recommend this book to my student who start learning Chinese painting or Calligraphy. The new additional chapters in this third edition covers the historical and aesthetical relationship between Chinese calligraphy and painting as well as other art forms like seal engraving. If you, like the author(and me), are from China and teach Chinese as second language, Chinese calligraphy or Chinese art history you will definately need to have this book. BTW, I have got a Chinese version of this book too so I can compare it with the English version which helps me to learn how to teach my Chinese painting class in English. I have not found a college-level teaching book better than this one in the field.

The book deals with the traditional art of Calligraphy from both a philosophical and an aesthetic point of view and uses numerous examples for the serious student of Chinese Calligraphy. It is written in a lively and informed manner that will stimulate the reader's imagination and appreciation of the art of Calligraphy and its masters throughout history. It is the #1 book in the field.

A classic. I misplaced my original copy from years ago, so got this to replace it. There really aren't any calligraphy books out there that have a thoughtful discussion of technique and the sample characters that he presented coincidentally corresponded mosly to those I was learning in class.

This book is an excellent overview of Calligraphy through the history of China. It goes in detail from the earliest Seal Writing to the modern Running Grass styles, with a plethora of information on famous calligraphers and many illustrations of their individual styles.. The author also goes into the techniques of calligraphic writing as well as a brief overview of the tools of the calligrapher. My only criticism is the brevity of his information here--I have found that the difference between Chinese ink sticks is so profound, one could easily write a chapter on this subject alone, but perhaps that should be the subject of a monograph.In any case I very highly recommend this book, both to aspiring calligraphers and to historians who wish to get a fair appraisal of calligraphy's cultural importance in China.

I like this old a bit book not only because of its name value but very balanced view of auther on Chines art of calligraphy.I think this is a must have book if someone is going to study Chinese art beside the calligraphy and help understand Chinese art in general.It's proven by its 13th print in total.

I greatly appreciated that this text was very approachable for a layperson. Parts did feel a bit silly, but I'm not a renowned expert in Chinese calligraphy so maybe that's because I didn't get it. In general this book was what I was looking for: a basic introduction to appreciating Chinese calligraphy.

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