



**B O O K S   b y   H A N D**

**in Sansepolcro, Italy**

**May 18 / May 26, 2024**

**with Monica Dengo and Satsuki Hatsushima**



**CIAO**

In May 2024 **Monica Dengo and Satsuki Hatsushima** will hold another intensive week-long workshop together. This time they will be in **Sansepolcro, Tuscany, Italy**, in the beautiful spaces of **Casermarcheologica, a center for contemporary arts** located in the town's historical center.

Monica and Satsuki will guide you in the discovery of the Renaissance calligraphic culture and the Japanese calligraphic culture. **Latin letters are symbols of the West, as ideograms are symbols of the East.** Both carry a message in the mark and the shape of which they are made and in their positioning in space. There are many deep relations between the marks and shapes of writing and the culture in which they are written and used. This year we will explore these relations by making visual links between ideograms and the Japanese aesthetics and between Latin letters and Renaissance aesthetics.

**In Japan, all lines lead to an ideogram.** Asymmetrical, dancing, mobile, fluid characters characterize the link between the mark of writing and the environment, between writing and the culture of a people. Vertical and horizontal lines are accompanied by diagonal lines, which take on different shapes depending on their position. **Ei (永) Eternity**, is considered the ideogram that contains all the most important strokes, and is one of the first that students must study.

**Heart of the Renaissance**, Sansepolcro, in Tuscany, was the birthplace of the painter **Piero della Francesca** and the mathematician **Luca Pacioli**. Students will observe the golden section in the tables representing the five solids made by Leonardo da Vinci, they will see original documents written in cancelleresca and humanistic cursive, they will admire the paintings of Piero della Francesca and learn Michelangelo's handwriting. Together we'll search for parallels between the culture and the forms of writing.

**The brush** was invented in China at the time of the Han dynasty and was decisive for all the shape and balance developments of the ideograms. All curves were turned into angles, all circles became squares or rectangles. In Japan lines meet, intersect. Threads of lines, counterpoints of lines, families of rectangles and squares: we are in the depths of the ideographic forest, and at the same time in the living fabric of the Japanese world.

**Quill pens** are at the origin of Latin lowercase and cursive hands. A flat brush was used to write all the large size Roman capital letters, but more than Roman capitals, we will study the cursive lines of Renaissance hands, starting from his-



torical documents, exploring the mark, the composition, the rhythm of writing. **Satsuki** teaches Western calligraphy in Japan and has been practicing shodo since she was a child. **Monica** is a Western calligraphy master and has been interested in Japanese culture and calligraphy for years, so she suggested to Satsuki, whom she has known for almost thirty years, to organize courses together and explore the deep bonds that exist not only between forms of writing, design and architecture, but also between writing and philosophy, writing and culture. This is how Monica and Satsuki started teaching together, organizing workshops in Japan and Italy.

**In 2024 they will be in Sansepolcro to explore the differences and similarities between two arts, two cultures, two worlds.**

Starting from historical introductions, we will arrive at contemporary explorations of writing by hand and mark making. Students will make books reflecting many ways of seeing and experiencing the act of writing and its relation to culture. Books will be made entirely by hand with Japanese and European papers. Satsuki will also demonstrate coloring these papers with indigo and kakishibu.

**During the week preceding the course, Monica and Satsuki will create an installation at Casermarcheologica** which will be inaugurated on the day of students' arrival in Sansepolcro. The installation is part of Monica and Satsuki's research on the relationship between writing and Nature.

At the end of the week, all student's works will be exhibited in the spaces of Casermarcheologica, next to Monica and Satsuki's installation.



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## **LOCATION-DATE**

The workshop will be at the center for contemporary arts Casermarcheologica, Via Aggiunti n.55 Sansepolcro AR, Tuscany Italy.

<https://www.casermarcheologica.it/>

**Arrival date: May 18, 2024**

**Departure date: May 26, 2024**

## **ACCOMMODATION**

Students will be given a list of suggestions for B&B. In the town everything is walking distance, students will be living in the historical center, having easy access to cafés in the piazzas and the many treasures of this town.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Students arriving to Italy by airplane can land in Firenze (closest airport) or any other city and come to Arezzo by train. Arezzo to Sansepolcro is 40 minutes by car. We'll set up two meeting times and organize taxis, so people can share the cost.



## **MEALS**

Sansepolcro is a tourist location, there are cafés, trattorias, restaurants, small shops and supermarkets. Casermarcheologica has a fridge, water boiler and basic kitchen.

## **FEE**

**Cost is Euro 1490 (onethousandfourhundredninty)**

**Deposit €500 is due by December 15, 2023**

**Final payment is February 28, 2024**

### **Fee includes:**

- Week-long workshop with Monica Dengo and Satsuki Hatsushima
- all the course's materials and papers.
- Museum visit (ticket + transportation)
- Welcome party/dinner
- One mid-week dinner
- Tea/coffee breaks
- Final party/dinner
- Student's exhibition at Casermarcheologica



## WHO CAN ATTEND

The course is open to both beginners and experts in one or both calligraphic cultures, to artists as well as people with no calligraphic or art experience.

## DEPOSIT AND REGISTRATION

First contact Monica at [ciao@monicadengo.com](mailto:ciao@monicadengo.com) to know if there are spaces available and to receive additional information.

### Terms and Conditions:

Your place on the workshop is confirmed with full payment. Due to the logistics, people and places involved, this event is non-refundable, unless the event itself is cancelled. Please ensure you are suitably insured.

For more information and subscription, contact:

Monica Dengo [ciao@monicadengo.com](mailto:ciao@monicadengo.com)

Satsuki Hatsushima [satsuki@studioponte.com](mailto:satsuki@studioponte.com)







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**SATSUKI HATSUSHIMA** lives and works in the Kyushu Island of Japan. In 2002 she established the association Studio Ponte in her studio in Fukuoka. Studio Ponte is intended as a bridge between Eastern and Western calligraphy. There she teaches historical and modern Western calligraphy and organizes international workshops. Satsuki received a Master's degree in Fine Arts from the Kyushu Sangyo University in Fukuoka. Her master thesis was about the study of calligraphy for graphic design education.

Satsuki teaches Western historical calligraphy at Kyushu Sangyo University and Kyushu Zokei Art College as well as several community colleges in Japan. She has been invited to teach Japanese and Western calligraphy in England, Ireland and Italy. Her work has been exhibited in many places including Korea, UK, Belgium, Italy and U.S.

Her life in a Japanese traditional home with thatched roof, built in 1885, has greatly influenced her artwork which she makes with natural materials and hand made Japanese papers. She cooks with firewood in the IRORI fireplace and earthen floor everyday. Short videos about her life: <https://vimeo.com/314171158/d329a410a1?fbclid=IwAR-2nU5T6WOyFEwwncOKgY1ddEkYRWpS-JYgQotSZ0fBJd4ItuVSuVD0CMWY>  
<https://www.tnc.co.jp/kodou/archives/kodou57.php>





**MONICADENGO** lives and works in Italy. She is an artist and teacher working with handwriting, lettering, calligraphy. She has taught in Japan, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Switzerland, France, Canada, Russia and United States. Currently she teaches at ISIA Urbino, for the Fondazione Musei Civici Veneziani and in a three years long course on historical calligraphy in Venice - Italy, for CIAC - Centro Internazionale Arti Calligrafiche.

Her work has been exhibited in many parts of the world and in 2014 she was awarded best international artist at the Sharjah Calligraphy Biennial. Her work can be found at the San Francisco Public Library Special Collection, CA, at the Berlin's Akademie der Künste Calligraphy Collection and in private collections. Publications: *Pick Up Your Pen* has been published by Giannino Stoppani Editore in Canada, France, Italy and Estonia. *Lascia il Segno*, dedicated to handwriting as an expression of human creativity, has been published by Terre di Mezzo Editore, in Italy in 2017 and in English with the title *Leave Your Mark* by Niggli Verlag, Switzerland in 2020. To find out more visit [www.monicadengo.com](http://www.monicadengo.com).





Casermarcheologica classroom and installation room



This course is organized with the support of Centro Internazionale Arti Calligrafiche, an Italian association dedicated to calligraphy, bookbinding, typography and the arts of lettering. [www.articalligrafiche.it](http://www.articalligrafiche.it)





