Workshop Review: Cora Pearl’s “Monoline Lettering Techniques”

September 1 & 2, 2018 - Sponsored by Texas Lettering Arts Council

Cora Pearl’s presentation was a delightful and enriching experience!

Eighteen scribes received instruction on lettering with the Speedball B-series nibs (the round tipped kind) and experimented with monoline styles “Bungalow” script by Charles Rennie MacKintosh and Typewriter Script”. These two “old school” scripts were fun and a major relief from traditional styles and staid but venerable Roman Capitals or the wacky, non-sensical “scrapbooking scripts” or illegible “expressive modern calligraphy” that instructors in the national training circuit currently seem to favor.

Bungalow script, an Art Nouveau style, is typical of lettering that emerged during the Arts and Crafts movement era of the late 1800’s and early 1900’s. I signed up for the workshop because of the offer of this script…and, was not disappointed. The Typewriter script was indeed amusing. You might ask, “why would anyone want to hand letter in the same form as an old typewriter?” ... because it was DIFFERENT… and fun...and both scripts were legible and easy to produce!

Students applied these letters to watercolor backgrounds, learning how to use masking fluids and writing in a circle or on painted wavy lines (see demo sample). There was ample time for individual attention to student posture, holding of pen, placement of paper in writing position, and analysis of writing techniques…presented in a positive and constructive manner.

Ms. Pearl’s manner of instruction was articulate, with excellent voice modulation; straight-forward and well-paced. She covered every point in her instructive demo sheets and handouts, which were bound into a professional booklet. All in all, a very good instructor.

I think I will sign up for her year long course in Elements of Design…if I qualify.

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