



Lettering Art Books – into the mind of a letter artist

Books are a personal intimate activity. We read them for information, knowledge, understanding, a walk into the world the author creates, a stepping aside and to be taken on a journey. As a letter artist I want to take others into the world of lettering in all its forms and associations, to experience the emotions that handwritten, uniquely crafted letters can evoke.

The books I create have developed from pure word and illustrative word placement to become "more than just reading". My readers engage all their senses in this experience; the feel of each page surface, the fabric textures and layering, the translucence that textiles offer and the discovery that cut and fold and enclosure techniques reveal all bring a 'more than the page' aspect to her artist books.

I work with paper, fabric, pigment and thread to create books that are both tactile and visual metaphors. These books lend themselves well to documenting and celebrating personal journeys by fully engaging the reader and allowing them their own interpretations.

I find fulfilment and joy in taking a creative idea then exploring solutions and finding answers to the challenges it presents. My books reveal their themes with each turn of the page, through continuity, flow and storytelling, giving us the opportunity to slow down our "reading eyes" and allow all our senses to uncover the story.

In my illustrated presentation I will speak of the choices, considerations and the lessons learnt from many years of crafting letters. I will have books written using traditional calligraphy plus artist books. There will also be technique samples for participants to touch, experience and enjoy.

Name: Margaret Woollett

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Margaret Woollett, a calligrapher and lettering artist, has been involved in these fields for over 30 years as a student, freelancer and teacher. She works from her Devonport studio taking classes, teaching at community learning centres, art symposiums and residential workshops throughout the country, as well as working freelance on commissions for a wide range of commercial clients.

Margaret works in book crafts, textile and stitching mediums, as well as paper crafts, marbling, collage and paper cut mediums. She loves letters.

As an inaugural member of The New Zealand Calligraphy Society, Margaret has had the opportunity to learn both formal and contemporary lettering from visiting leading international calligraphers.

Having participated in many collective calligraphic exhibitions, she had a solo exhibition in 2012 which received much favourable response.

With the COVID-19 pandemic opening the opportunity to learn online she has taken many courses from international lettering artists to further expand the styles and repertoire of works created. By following this more creative and intuitive process her lettering now includes works not just on paper but also glass, metal, timber and translucent Japanese mulberry papers.

Margaret has created many artists' books during this time, combining lettering with her passion for sewing, hand stitching and bookbinding, which she admits can sometimes become addictive.