

THE BEAUTIFUL ALPHABET

From the Manuscripts to Contemporary Calligraphy

SIX DAY WORKSHOP TO BE HELD IN PELION, GREECE

16 – 23 SEPTEMBER 2023



THE AIM OF THIS COURSE

TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES OF HISTORICAL CALLIGRAPHY THAT LEAD TO THE ABSTRACTION, BY STARTING WITH 5 DIFFERENT OLD MANUSCRIPTS FROM MEDICI'S LIBRARY IN FLORENCE, AND 4 DIFFERENT HANDS (CHOOSING ONE).

EACH MANUSCRIPT IS UNIQUE OF ITS KIND AND IN ITS FORM AS IT IS LINKED TO A SERIES OF FORTUITOUS, UNREPEATABLE FACTORS: ITS HISTORICAL CONTEXT, THE PRECISE MOMENT IN TIME, THE CALLIGRAPHER'S HAND AND HIS EMOTIONS.

METHODOLOGY

DURING A CALLIGRAPHY COURSE OF THIS KIND, IT IS USUALLY THE TEACHER WHO PROVIDES A PRE-CONSTRUCTED AND PRE-ELABORATED MODEL OF WRITING, BUT IN THIS CASE THE TEACHER WILL BE THERE TO ENCOURAGE EACH STUDENT TO STUDY THE FASCINATING LETTERS OF ONE OF THE MANUSCRIPTS, ITS RHYTHM, ITS LIGATURES, ITS SPACING, ITS CHARACTERISTICS AND ITS UNIQUENESS. FOLLOWING ON FROM THERE, WE WILL DEVELOP THE LETTERS OF THE ALPHABET USED IN OUR MANUSCRIPT TO GIVE THEM A MORE CREATIVE AND FREER ASPECT AND SO DEVELOP A "NEW" KIND OF WRITING THAT IS MORE RHYTHMIC AND DYNAMIC, AND AT TIMES ILLEGIBLE UNTIL IT ARRIVES AT THE ABSTRACT.

OUR INTENTION, THEREFORE, IS TO BREATHE NEW LIFE INTO THE LETTERS AND RHYTHMS OF THE PAST BY PASSING THEM THROUGH THE FILTER OF OUR OWN PERSONALITY AND SENSITIVITY, OUR EXPERIENCES AND EMOTIONS, TO MAKE THEM ONCE AGAIN UNIQUE AND UNREPEATABLE AGAIN EVEN IF ILLEGIBLE.

AT THE END THE EXERCISES PAGES DONE IN THE COURSE WILL BE COLLECTED FOR BINDING AND TO DESIGN A LITTLE BOOKLET OF EACH PARTICIPANT'S WORK TO TAKE HOME.

THE PELION PENINSULA IS SITUATED OPPOSITE EVIA AND THE ISLAND OF SKIATHOS. IT IS A LUSH TERRAIN WITH AMPLE WATER FROM THE MOUNTAIN TO SUSTAIN A LARGE VARIETY OF TREES, SHRUBS AND WILDFLOWERS - INDIGENOUS AND FROM ELSEWHERE. THERE ARE MANY WILD BEACHES SURROUNDING THE HILLS AND VALLEYS INTO WHICH NESTLE THE VILLAGES WITH THEIR DISTINCTIVE AND PRESERVED ARCHITECTURE.

COURSE TUTOR MASSIMO POLELLO



BASED IN TURIN, ITALY, MASSIMO POLELLO HAS WORKED AS A CALLIGRAPHER FOR OVER TWENTY YEARS. HE HAS EXPLORED CALLIGRAPHY'S CLASSICAL AND CONTEMPORARY APPLICATIONS IN VISUALS ARTS AND GRAPHIC DESIGN. HIS WORK INCLUDES PACKAGING DESIGN AND SIGNAGE; CORPORATE BRANDING; COMMERCIAL, MUSEUMS AND PERSONAL LOGOS; AS WELL AS EXECUTING HIS ORIGINAL DESIGNS ON WALLS, IN FILMS AND IN ART VIDEOS. MASSIMO HAS EXHIBITED AND LEAD WORKSHOPS IN THE US, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, SOUTH AFRICA, SOUTH KOREA, CANADA, PAKISTAN, JAPAN, FRANCE, GERMANY, SPAIN, BELGIUM, ENGLAND AND RUSSIA. HE HAS WORKED ON SEVERAL SHORT FILMS, AND HAS CONTRIBUTED TO GRAPHICUS, TIPOITALIA AND LETTERS ARTS REVIEW MAGAZINES.

POLELLO HAS TAUGHT ON THE FACULTY OF FOUR INTERNATIONAL CALLIGRAPHY CONFERENCES HELD IN THE UNITED STATES. IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DUTCH DESIGNER MARCEL WANDERS, HE CONTRIBUTED TO THE RIJKSBOOK, A PRESTIGIOUS LIMITED EDITION BOOK FOR THE RIJKS MUSEUM IN AMSTERDAM, AND IN 2009 TRAITÉ DE LA PEINTURE-EXTRAITS WITH EDITIONS ALTERNATIVES PUBLISHER OF PARIS.

MASSIMO POLELLO HAS ALSO WORKED WITH ARTIST AND FILMMAKER PETER GREENAWAY ON "PEOPLING THE PALACE," AND WITH DIRECTOR LUCA RONCONI ON THE INSTALLATION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION OF THE UNIFICATION OF ITALY, "LA BELLA ITALIA." HE IS PRESIDENT OF TURIN'S CALLIGRAPHERS' GUILD "DAL SEGNO ALLA SCRITTURA" AND WORKS IN HIS TURIN STUDIO, GALLERY ABC ATELIER.

MASSIMO SUMS UP HIS APPROACH TO CALLIGRAPHY BEST, "...LETTERS BECOME A MEANS TO EXIST OUTSIDE MYSELF... GOING BEYOND THE LETTERS, CAPTURED BY THE SOLE NEED TO SEE. THEY BECOME SIGNS, IMAGES, EVOCATIONS, URGENT NEEDS, EMOTIONS."

[HTTP://WWW.LACALLIGRAFIA.COM/](http://www.lacalligrafia.com/) [HTTPS://WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/MASSIMPOLELLO/](https://www.instagram.com/massimopolello/)
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OUTLINE PROGRAMME

SATURDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2022	ARRIVAL THROUGHOUT THE DAY AND WELCOME DINNER
SUNDAY 17 TO FRIDAY 22 SEPTEMBER	CLASSES 09.45 – 13.15 AND 15.30 – 18.00 <i>EXCEPT ONE FULL DAY EXCURSION – DATE TO BE CONFIRMED</i> FAREWELL DINNER

ALL SESSIONS TAKE PLACE AT LAGOU RAXI COUNTRY HOTEL, AND INCLUDE SIX HOURS TUITION PER DAY UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE. THIS IS AN INTENSIVE COURSE WITH DAILY SESSIONS. IF POSSIBLE PARTICIPANTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ADD SOME EXTRA DAYS ON EITHER SIDE OF THE COURSE TO MAKE THE MOST OF THIS REMOTE AND STUNNING LOCATION EITHER RELAXING BY THE HOTEL POOL, EXPLORING THE NEARBY VILLAGES OR SAMPLING SOME OF THE OUTSTANDING LOCAL TAVERNAS.

MATERIALS

MASSIMO WILL BRING PENS-NIBS, OTHER TOOLS ON LOAN USE OR FOR SALE. LAGOU RAXI WILL SUPPLY PAPER AND ALL MATERIALS WILL BE SUPPLIED AS PART OF THE FEE. HOWEVER MORE EXPERIENCED PARTICIPANTS ARE WELCOME TO BRING THEIR OWN.

ACCOMPANYING PERSONS

NON-PARTICIPANTS ARE WELCOME AND WILL JOIN THE MEALS AND THE EXCURSION. THEY WILL BE ABLE TO USE THE POOL, THE LIBRARY AND WALK THE KALDERIMIA (STONE FOOTPATHS) AROUND THE VILLAGE.

COURSES IN PELION, GREECE - PRACTICAL INFORMATION



- THE STUDIO IS SPACIOUS AND AIRY, AND TABLES WILL BE WELL SPACED. ACCORDING TO PREVAILING COVID CIRCUMSTANCES WE MAY ASK YOU TO TEST OR MASK AS NEEDED – THE HOTEL FOLLOWS ALL SAFETY PROTOCOLS
- LESSONS ARE WITH A FULLY EXPERIENCED TEACHER, PASSIONATE ABOUT HIS/HER SUBJECT AND STUDENTS
- ALL COURSES ARE SUITABLE FOR BEGINNERS, INTERMEDIATE & EXPERIENCED PARTICIPANTS
- WE CAN ARRANGE DELIVERY OF THE WORK HOME IF REQUIRED BUT MOST STUDENTS TAKE THEM SAFELY IN THEIR LUGGAGE

WHAT IS INCLUDED

- FIVE FULL DAYS OF TUITION AND ONE FULL DAY EXCURSION. STUDIO ACCESS IN THE EVENINGS IF REQUIRED BUT CLOSED ON EXCURSION DAY
- ACCOMMODATION, BREAKFAST, EXCURSION (TRANSPORT, TAVERNA LUNCH), FIVE LIGHT LUNCHES AND SIX THREE COURSE DINNERS INCLUDING WELCOME AND FAREWELL AT THE HOTEL
- COFFEE AND TEA THROUGHOUT THE DAYS OF TEACHING
- TIME FOR REST AND RELAXATION ON THE BEACH, BY THE POOL OR IN THE VILLAGE SQUARE
- OUR LIBRARY WHICH INCLUDES THE COMPLETE SET OF MEDITERRANEAN GARDEN SOCIETY JOURNALS, EUROPEAN BIRD BOOKS AND OTHER REFERENCES TO THE NATURAL WORLD
- FLIGHTS ARE NOT INCLUDED, HOWEVER THERE ARE DIRECT FLIGHTS TO VOLOS AIRPORT DURING SUMMER PERIODS: FROM LONDON GATWICK, MUNICH, DUESSELDORF AND VIENNA ON CERTAIN DAYS
- ALTERNATIVELY THERE ARE REGULAR FLIGHTS TO ATHENS, SKIATHOS OR THESSALONIKI

LAGOU RAXI CAN ADVISE ON THE EASIEST/MOST ECONOMICAL TRANSFERS FROM YOUR CHOSEN AIRPORT AND WILL HELP PARTICIPANTS TO SHARE IF CONVENIENT.

PRICES PER PERSON INCLUDING TUITION + ACCOMMODATION - MEALS AS STATED ABOVE EXCURSION AND MATERIALS

SINGLE ROOM	TWIN DOUBLE OCCUPANCY	TRIPLE DOUBLE OCCUPANCY
1243 €	1096 €	1184 €

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BRING FAMILY MEMBER(S) OR FRIEND(S), NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE COURSES THE ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS FOR ONE PERSON ARE: 846€ (DOUBLE ROOM) OR 934€ (TRIPLE FOR DOUBLE OCCUPANCY). SUITES ON DEMAND.

THE VILLAGE OF LAFKOS - SOUTH PELION



LAFKOS IS ONE OF THE 24 OFFICIALLY 'LISTED' VILLAGES IN THE REGION OF PELION, ABOUT 45 KM FROM THE CITY OF VOLOS. MEDIEVAL PATHS (KALDERIMIA) STRETCH AROUND THIS CAR-FREE VILLAGE AND FURTHER AFIELD TO NEIGHBOURING VILLAGES AND THE SEA. THREE MUSEUMS AND FIVE TAVERNAS ARE OPEN ALL YEAR. THE SMELL OF FRESHLY BAKED BREAD IN A WOOD-FIRED OVEN DRAWS YOU TO THE BAKERY SHOP. THE VILLAGE HAS THREE SMALL 'MINI-MARKETS', A CRAFTSMAN JEWELLER, HOMEMADE SOAPS AND A GIFT SHOP. IN UNDER 10 MINUTES YOU CAN WALK FROM THE HOTEL THROUGH THE VILLAGE LANES TO THE SQUARE WITH ITS IMPOSING CHURCH AND PLANE TREES. VISIT WWW.LAGOURAXI.COM FOR MORE INFO ABOUT THE AREA.



LAGOU RAXI COUNTRY HOTEL (330M) OPENED IN 2014 AND WAS BUILT ACCORDING TO THE LOCAL TRADITIONAL ARCHITECTURE. IT HAS A BREATH-TAKING VIEW OF THE PAGASITIC GULF AND IT'S ALSO CLOSE TO THE AEGEAN SEA. THERE IS AN EASY FOOTPATH FROM THE HOTEL DOWN TO MILINA. ALTHOUGH BRITISH OWNED THE HOTEL CUISINE IS TRADITIONAL GREEK, SOMETIMES WITH A TWIST. ALL THE DISHES ARE HOME-MADE, AND DELICIOUS! THE HOTEL HAS A GOOD-SIZED SWIMMING POOL AND AN ALL-WEATHER TENNIS COURT AS WELL AS THE LIBRARY, TERRACE, AZURE RESTAURANT, YOGA MATS AND THE PURPOSE-BUILT 'ATELIER' OR WORKROOM.

OTHER COURSES INCLUDE / SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR 2022/3 COURSES

- ✓ **GARDEN DESIGN IN GREECE & THE MEDITERRANEAN** 27 SEPTEMBER – 05 OCTOBER 2022
- ✓ **GREEK WILDFLOWERS AND ORCHIDS - BOTANICAL PAINTING** 22 – 29 APRIL 2023
- ✓ **PRINTING PILIO – SPRINGTIME IN GREECE – NATURAL DYEING AND ECO-PRINTING WORKSHOP** 03 – 13 MAY 2023
- ✓ **DEBUT D'ÉTÉ EN GRECE / EARLY SUMMER IN GREECE BOTANICAL PAINTING** 20 – 27 MAY 2023
- ✓ **NATURE JOURNALING IN GREECE** 17 – 24 JUNE 2023
- ✓ **CLASSICALLY INSPIRED CONTEMPORARY MOSAICS** 24 JUNE – 01 JULY 2023 WITH OPTIONAL POST-COURSE TOUR
- ✓ **BYZANTINE ICON PAINTING IN GREECE** 11 – 21 OCTOBER 2023
- ✓ **PELION MANSIONS, SHADY CORNERS AND AZURE SEAS – ACRYLIC AND WATERCOLOUR PAINTING, CONCERTINA SKETCHBOOKS, AND OTHER COURSES – 2023 DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED**

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MEDITERRANEAN CENTRE FOR ART, GARDENS, PLANTS AND DESIGN

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