

Art - Traditional Signwriting in a Comp

New for 25/26! Join us to learn the traditional heritage craft of Signwriting. Under the guidance of our expert tutor, you will engage with the foundational skills starting with how to draw and layout letters by hand and then learning the brush techniques needed to create beautiful signs. Working by hand, participants not only hone their artistic abilities but also honour a legacy of craftsmanship, thus contributing to the resurgence of these time-honoured skills in a world increasingly dominated by technology. This hands-on approach cultivates not only creativity but also an appreciation for the process and the value of authentic craftsmanship.

Start Date: 29 September 2025
Start Time: 13:00
Lessons: 10
Weeks: 10
Hours: 20.00

Like most skills, becoming proficient in signwriting requires practice. Learners will be given the opportunity to refine their skills before moving onto to paint their own sign which they will have created using skills learnt over the course.

If you are interested in developing your creative skills, book onto one of our courses from the Creative Arts offer.

PLEASE DO NOT BUY TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT UNTIL YOU KNOW THAT THE COURSE WILL RUN.

Venue

Rochester Adult Education Centre
Rochester Community Hub
Eastgate
ME1 1EW

What Will I Learn On This Course?

1. Demonstrate an understanding of at least 2 principles underpinning letter form and spacing
2. Demonstrate an understanding of at least 2 brushwork techniques to create traditional lettering styles using a Mahl stick
3. Demonstrate free hand lettering on at least 3 different letters or numbers

Whether you would like to learn new creative skills or to investigate the possibility of a new art-based career, MAE Community Learning courses can provide you with a stepping stone to progress

Is This Course Suitable For Me?

The course will also cover:

Workshop health and safety
How to draw letters without being reliant on a computer
Sign layout and design including how to create effective shadows
Paint mixing
Surface preparation
Brush techniques for sign writing
Use of a Mahl stick to create smooth brush strokes
Care of paint brushes

This course is designed to appeal to people who have an interest in lettering, art, or a desire to learn a traditional craft with practical applications with the aim to continue it as a creative hobby or a business. It is also suitable for those with some signwriting experience who may have taught themselves and would like to refine their skills working alongside a practicing signwriter. For anyone looking for a hands-on, mindful activity the process of signwriting can also be a relaxing and engaging past time.

Is There Anything Else I Need To Know About This Course?

Please be aware that whilst this course is practical in nature some sessions will include theory and professional related training such as H&S, risk assessments, public liability etc.

Learners will need the following tools and equipment please do not purchase until you are sure the course will run:

You will be provided with:

- Sketch book
- Paint palette to borrow (will need to clean and return each lesson)
- Mahl stick (to borrow each class, need to return at the end of each class)
- Specialist signwriting paint in primary colours to get you started & thinners

Learners will need to purchase:

- Pencil for drawing (HB) & pencil sharpener
- 45cm / 18" ruler
- Eraser for paper
- From 2nd week Brushes - Brush makers A.S.Handover sell a Sable Chisel Writer Set: # 1, 3, 5. (Product code: 2112SET) <https://www.handover.co.uk/about-us/>
- Apron

Will There Be Additional Costs?

You will need to purchase items as the course progresses, such as a wider range of coloured paints and primed wood, but your tutor will give you guidance after the first class

What Could I Go On To Do After This Course?

Your tutor can talk to you about other subject related course available. Your progression course R251065A Art - Signwriting in a Digital Age 2

Medway Adult Education works with many partners locally such as MidKent College, Medway School of Arts and the University of Kent; information about their courses can be found in our studios, café and on Moodle. Medway has an exciting and wide-range of events, exhibitions and activities to inspire and help you make further progress - please see the community noticeboards in the Rochester Centre and again on Moodle. Your tutor will be able to talk through your individual progression options.

If you wish to explore your learning, work or career options, you can speak to a fully trained careers advisor on 0800 100 900. <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>

If you need further advice please telephone 01634 338400.

What Is The Attendance Policy?

Multiple sessions-

To get the most out of your course you will need to attend as many sessions as possible. We recommend at least 90%. If you do have a holiday booked during term time, please let the tutor know in advance so that we can help you catch up on missed sessions and ensure that you still achieve the course outcomes. If you are unavoidably ill or unable to attend, please contact 01634 338400 so that we can let your tutor know, and so they can send you any work you may have missed

Health & Safety

Health and Safety Disclaimer

By participating in the live class, you accept that you understand that art involves potentially hazardous tools and equipment and that such activity carries the risk of injury. You understand that it is your responsibility to judge your motor skills and physical ability.

It is your responsibility to ensure that by participating in classes and activities from Medway Adult Education, you will not exceed your limits while performing such activity, and you will select the appropriate level of task for your skills and abilities.

You understand that this is an art activity, and you will need to be suitably dressed, you will need protect your work surface and be mindful of the correct Health & Safety processes when working with art materials. MAE is not responsible for damage to items in your house / home or person.

The creators, owners and distributors of this site and the material available MAE are not responsible for any injuries you may experience because of your use of this site and the material contained here on. By remaining on this site and/or accessing and / or using any material, you are accepting that you have read, understood and agreed to follow these basic instructions.