

## A13 CASTING INTENSIVE

### Joan Merrell



Joan grew up in Provo Utah where her commercial art teacher in high school drew a Gothic alphabet on the board in chalk and told everyone to go buy a Speedball book and learn to do it. She thought the work she posted inside her locker was pretty cool until she looked back it at a few years later. After graduating from college and having four of her five kids, she was looking for something less complicated than oil painting to work on during naptime and started searching for information on calligraphy. Eventually, she discovered guilds, workshops, Camp Cheerio, Reggie Ezell, and many other fine teachers. She has taught calligraphy for over 20 years and developed a method of papercasting particularly suitable for lettering. She has taught around the country and at several conferences. She loves finding ways to use letters and color, including new experiments with silk fibers.  
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Explore a surprisingly simple technique that creates quite unique and elegant versions of your lettering made from the paper itself. These molds can also be used to make white line prints, 3D sculptures, stamped leather in book-binding or designs in ceramics, and more.

Jump right in, creating quick step-by-step sample molds to learn how the process works; what affects legibility and clarity in a casting, how to make a mold that releases cleanly, and which techniques work best for different applications or designs, etc. Test castings will be analyzed to learn how to adjust or refine the molds.



Participants will adapt their own ideas and designs to develop these new skills in larger projects of their choice. Further experimentation may include using substrates or wires to make castings with organic curves or 3D shapes, making multi-layered molds, creating cast book pages or covers, creating alphabet stamps for use in mold-making, using subtle or striking colored pulp, using textile hardener to make even sturdier castings for jewelry or sculpture – all based on your own calligraphic work.

Whether you are interested in one-of-a-kind art pieces or making multiples to sell, you will learn the ins and outs of the process and go home with reusable molds and completed projects – and with the ability to use your lettering in exciting new ways.

Participants will be sent instructions for preparing designs ahead of time.

#### A13 SUPPLIES

**Tools:** X-acto knife with #11 (straight) blade; terry cloth towel; 9"x12" or larger heavy chipboard (like backing on a sketchpad); rolling pin or acrylic brayer; masking tape; clean, flat sponge; "Clay Shaper" flat chisel tip, small size 0 (worth finding); 2-3 water/pulp containers (like margarine tubs); pencil; ruler; scissors; clear tape or "post-it" (repositionable) glue; stick for layout adjustments; a few favorite, basic lettering supplies. **Optional:** Linoleum cutter – small V tip, large U-shaped if you have it; Opti-visor or magnifying eyeglasses; small flat freezer pack; Clay Shaper round pointed tip size 0. **Only if you are driving, not flying:** 8x10 inch or similar size smooth ceramic tile; pasta machine, if you have or can borrow one (cutter head not needed). **Materials fee:** \$48