

Calligraphic Creations

Bernice Bing blurred the boundary between word and image in her art. In 1984, she spent three months in China studying calligraphy and traditional ink landscape painting. Her work following that formative trip evolved toward a synthesis of calligraphy and abstraction. In an artist statement from 1990, Bing mused, “[S]ince my return from a trip to China, I have made a path to my heart with Chinese calligraphy.”



Lotus Goddess, 1986–1988, by Bernice Bing (American, 1936–1998). Watercolor and mixed media on paper. *Asian Art Museum, Gift of the Estate of Bernice Bing*, F2020.25.5. Photograph © Asian Art Museum.



Lotus/Lotus Sutra, 1986, by Bernice Bing (American, 1936–1998) Mixed media on rag paper. *Asian Art Museum, Gift of the Estate of Bernice Bing*, F2020.25.4. Photograph © Asian Art Museum

Browse through the calligraphy books on this table and use the materials to practice writing the characters that appeal to you.

Think of the images you see in the characters; how might you turn them into figures or gestures? How might you use them to show feeling or movement?

Paint your own calligraphic creation!