**Chinese Calligraphy**

**Intro:**

Explore the art behind Chinese ideograms with basic concepts, shapes and strokes behind one of the oldest writing forms in the world.

**Page 1:**

**What is Chinese calligraphy?**

Calligraphy is much, much more than simply applying brush strokes to paper. It’s an infinitely rich form of art that is thousands of years old. In China, it is considered by many to be more valued than painting and sculpture, and is ranked alongside poetry as the highest form of self-expression.

**Page 2:**

**Choosing your instruments**

Ink and special rice paper are considered the best instruments for experienced calligraphers, but for our purposes any paintbrush should yield beautiful results and for absolute beginners even pens and pencils will do the job.

**Page 3:**

**Ideograms**

Chinese characters are ideograms and are often composed of multiple elements. For example, the image above combines the character for a “hand” (**手**) underneath and “rain” (雨) on top. Together these characters mean “snow” (雪) or rain that you can hold in your hand. Poetic, right? We’ll come back to this one later

**Page 4:**

**Fire**

Let’s start with something a bit easier. Take this character for “fire” (火). It has five strokes. Try doing them in the same order as the video above.

**Page 5:**

**Water**

Stepping it up slightly, try and replicate the character for “water” (水)above. Again, following the stroke order as the video.

**Page 6:**

**Drawing snow**

And back to “snow” (雪)! Try also to think about the distribution and balance of the character. Give it a few goes until you get the hang of it.

**Page 7:**

**Love**

Next up let’s try the word for “love”. You’ll notice it contains the parts of "爫" and"夂" both meaning action and "心” which means heart. So the Chinese character "愛" means to love people through your actions and with your heart. Follow the steps in the video and give it a go.