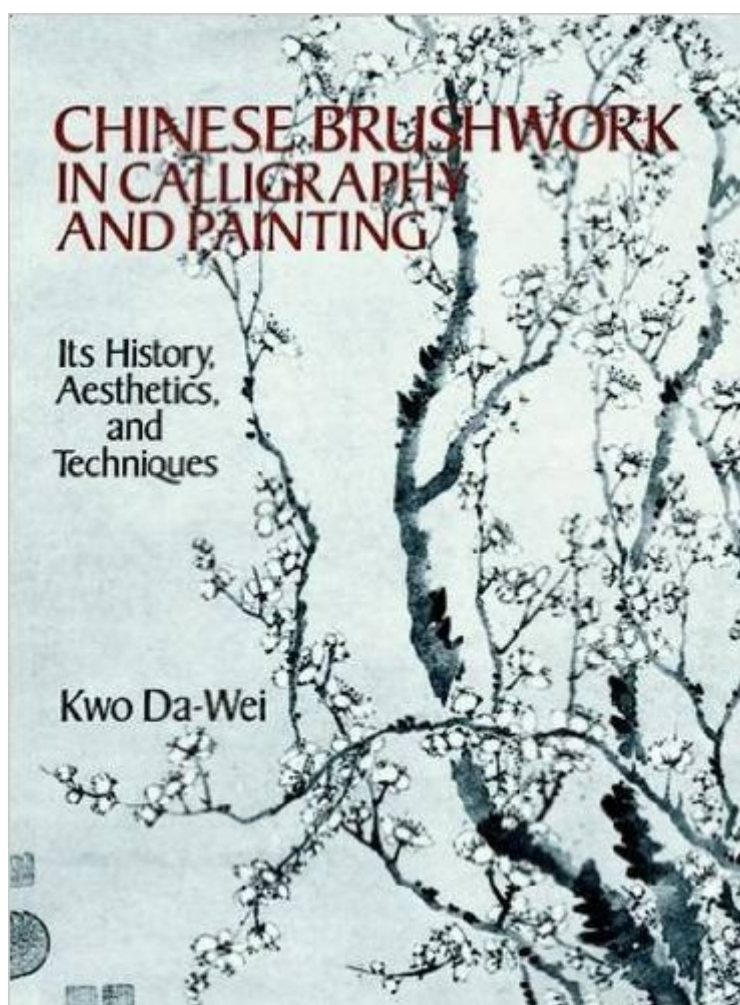


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# Chinese Brushwork In Calligraphy And Painting: Its History, Aesthetics, And Techniques (Dover Fine Art, History Of Art)



## Synopsis

"A volume of great value to the admirer of Chinese art that also contains much practical advice for the student." — Library Journal

When this book was first published, there were few if any important studies dealing with Chinese brushwork and its crucial role in Chinese art. The present volume, by a noted scholar, calligrapher, and artist, was the first significant treatment of the topic and remains among the foremost works devoted to the history, aesthetics, and techniques of the brush — the single most important tool in Chinese fine art. The author begins by tracing the historical development of techniques and styles evolved by Chinese masters from the 14th century B.C. to the present. An in-depth explanation of Chinese aesthetic concepts and criteria follows, enhanced by the author's perceptive personal insights in such matters as line, form, space consciousness, and composition. A final section provides a valuable introduction to the materials, technical principles, and major brush strokes of Chinese painting and calligraphy. Techniques are demonstrated in numerous illustrations, including examples of the author's own highly respected work and painting and calligraphy from ancient and modern times. Also included among more than 200 illustrations and photographs are a map of ancient China, chronological charts of calligraphic styles and dominant painting subjects, as well as a glossary of major terms in English and Chinese. Dr. Kwo has exhibited his paintings at museums and art galleries throughout the world and has taught Chinese brushwork extensively in colleges and universities in both China and the United States. For students of art, for painters and calligraphers — for anyone eager to approach Chinese art from a fresh and rewarding perspective — his book is must reading.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A 1981 publication purely covering brush styles and techniques from the root through the centuries. Haven't come across another yet like it. Includes a front section on taoism & confucian thought which I hadn't bargained for but it could be an interesting read. This is not a visual book, rather a historical and descriptive/ instructional walk through the evolution of brush technique in China first for calligraphy then as a natural progression, ink painting. The two are seen as sharing common root principles and techniques - instructional and "illustrative". The prints are VERY limited and VERY poorly reproduced. But the coverage on brush techniques make up for it.

Kwo Da-Wei, with his book, Chinese Brushwork in Calligraphy and Painting, has come to my aid in learning the use of brush, ink, paper in the Chinese fashion. Though I've taken Chinese brushwork classes, I find Mr. Kwo's one-on-one instruction extremely beneficial as a Westerner to whom Chinese brushwork isn't natural as it is for those schooled early on from childhood. My intention is not to even try to master calligraphy or any of the iconic Chinese art; my intention in studying Mr. Kwo's book is to help me attain more fluidity in my watercolors in particular, and in my art in general. I find the exquisite flow of the ink or paint from my brush exciting and he helps me to understand how to execute the use of the brush in various styles that I can apply to my Western watercolor, to continue that excitement. Mr. Kwo also gives an historical overview of Chinese brushwork and art for the understanding of the Western student. Like a magician breaking down the mysteries of his craft, he's given me the basics; now with practice, I'll be able to bring those applications to my work. He covers the fundamentals of brushwork: moisture, pressure, speed, angles and applications of the brush, body movement, even holding the brush. Also, he explains the aesthetic components of form, line, space-consciousness and composition. I'm glad I found Mr. Kwo's very valuable book.

This was so helpful to me in understanding the art of Chinese brushwork and calligraphy. It opened a portal to understand many new concepts. Explained easily for the beginner. Really, this was a helpful book. Gloria Orenstein

explains clearly all strokes

Mr Kwo's book was my introduction into the use of the oriental brush and water based black ink. His

book, read over time, brought me into my great appreciation for the skill of the brush. In this work the author describes the use of the brush from a historic point of view. He also shows how brush technique and written language developed and explains to his western readers how to "see with oriental style", with the use of the brush and ink as a tool, the oriental concept of space and lines. Though an artist using a simple brush and water-based ink creates a far different scene than considered typical by western standards, the oriental use of empty space, reserved for the viewers imagination to complete the scene, is very refreshing. It sparked my interest into this subject and from there I went to japanese sumi-e. Thank you for your excellent book Mr. Kwo!

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