

Agnieszka Helman- The Choices of Paper for Calligraphic Art in Asia Ważny

Many varieties of paper have been used in the creation of various types of calligraphic art in Asia at different times, dependent on local technological know-how, the availability of materials, tools, preferences of the artists to match their creative impetus, and the intended function of the artwork. The different types of paper required different manufacturing processes and different raw materials. It is challenging to make solid conclusions about the relationship between material and aesthetics because so many of these observations are subjective. Beyond the raw materials, there are other aspects of the papermaking process which influence the nature of the resultant paper, such as the degree of fibre blending, the type of papermaking mould used, and the preparation of the paper surface before a calligraphy is set upon it. Sometimes the differences in ink drawings come from basic paper properties such as absorbency. Notwithstanding, specific material choices can imply a greater sense of control over media during the creation process and thus the final result. This presentation will discuss technology, raw materials and all other aspects of papermaking which make paper the best choice for calligraphy art, using the case studies from China, Tibet and Southeast Asia.

Keywords: calligraphy, papermaking, material choices, Asia