

Art Society of Tasmania
Artists in Conversation 2022

GEMMA BLACK



Gemma Black is a calligrapher, an artist and teacher. Her love for and knowledge of letters as ancient symbols has seen her teach throughout Australia, Europe, UK & USA. Her work is housed in private and public collections including the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, UK, the European Parliament, Letterform Archive San Francisco and Parliament House Canberra. In 1991 Gemma received a Winston Churchill Memorial Fellowship to study overseas. She is an Honoured Fellow of the Calligraphy & Lettering Arts Society, UK. Her love of calligraphic history, evolution of the western alphabet from the Roman period through to the 21st century keeps her research interests switched on. Gemma shares her passion with enthusiasm, gusto as well as gentleness from her heart!

Gemma Black : Calligrapher : Artist : Teacher



Artists in Conversation LECTURE

Gemma Black provides insight into the working life of a calligrapher in contemporary Australia. Gemma offers you a glimpse of her life as an artist, the opportunities that have arisen for her in particular the work created for the Commonwealth Government of Australia. These works include four major Apology documents including the Apology to Australia's Indigenous Peoples and a number of other founding documents housed in the Australian Archives. She will also talk about what type of commissions a modern calligrapher is required to do to remain relevant in a highly technical age.

In the lecture we will look very briefly at time periods in the evolution of writing to give you a better understanding of the models that have influenced writing both by hand & digital for everyone. Gemma offers a highly polished and professional illustrated presentation of a craftsman of archaic skills, a maker of modern written artefacts. There is gold, and there is colour, there are books and there are broadsheets. This is a thoroughly enjoyable and informative lecture.

WORKSHOP

A one-day workshop will follow in the days after the lecture; Trialling letterform in your own art style & practice.