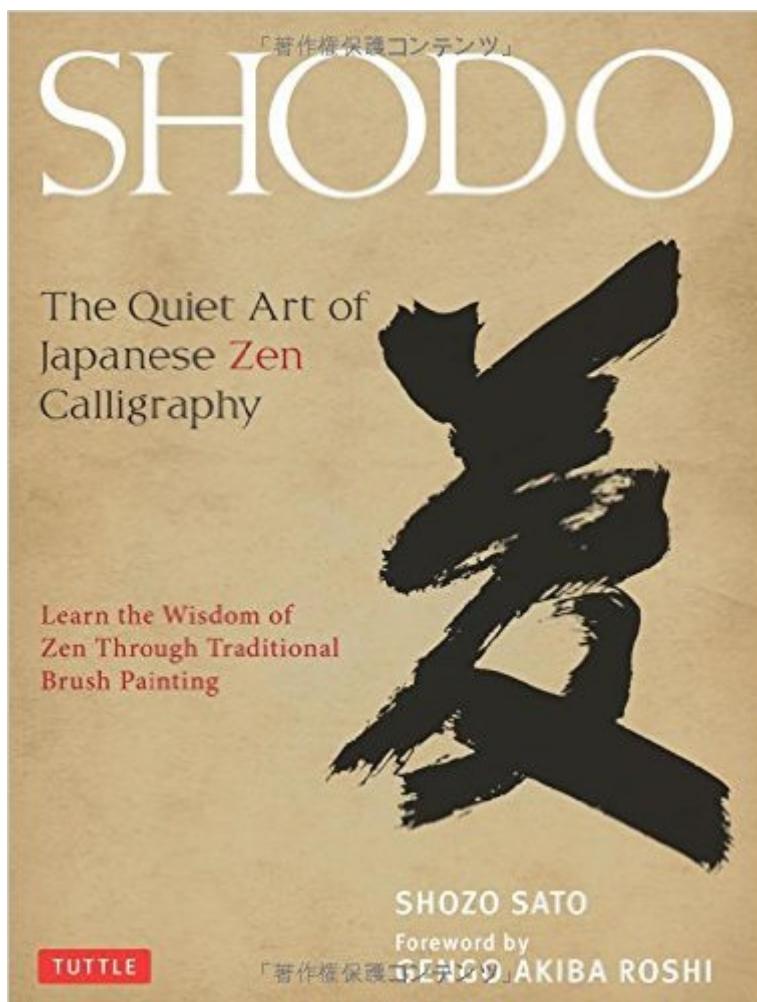


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# Shodo: The Quiet Art Of Japanese Zen Calligraphy; Learn The Wisdom Of Zen Through Traditional Brush Painting



## Synopsis

In this beautiful and extraordinary zen calligraphy book, Shozo Sato, an internationally recognized master of traditional Zen arts, teaches the art of Japanese calligraphy through the power and wisdom of Zen poetry. Single-line Zen Buddhist koan aphorisms, or zengo, are one of the most common subjects for the traditional Japanese brush calligraphy known as shodo. Regarded as one of the key disciplines in fostering the focused, meditative state of mind so essential to Zen, shodo calligraphy is practiced regularly by all students of Zen Buddhism in Japan. After providing a brief history of Japanese calligraphy and its close relationship with the teachings of Zen Buddhism, Sato explains the basic supplies and fundamental brushstroke skills that you'll need. He goes on to present thirty zengo, each featuring:  
An example by a skilled Zen monk or master calligrapher  
An explanation of the individual characters and the Zen koan as a whole  
Step-by-step instructions on how to paint the phrase in a number of styles (Kaisho, Gyosho, Sosho)  
A stunning volume on the intersection of Japanese aesthetics and Zen Buddhist thought, Shodo: The Quiet Art of Japanese Zen Calligraphy guides beginning and advanced students alike to a deeper understanding of the unique brush painting art form of shodo calligraphy. Shodo calligraphy topics include: The Art of Kanji The Four Treasures of Shodo Ideogram Zengo Students of Shodo

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"More than a primer on shodo, this book gives a thorough discussion of the practice of calligraphy as well as insight into the mindset and understanding required for writing zengo. Therefore, it should

be seen as fitting into a long line of excellent publications that bring the often baffling teachings of Zen to a wide English-speaking audience." â "Janice Katz, Ph. D., Roger L. Weston Associate Curator of Japanese Art, Art Institute of Chicago" "This book is a gift for the mind and the eyes. Thoughtful commentary provokes an ongoing consideration of the meanings of the Zen phrases, while the brilliant inclusion of calligraphic how-to educates the eyes on how to follow the lines of ink in the original free-flowing gestures of the brush. I know I will return to this book again and again." â "Christy A. Bartlett, Director, Urasenke Foundation San Francisco" "An extraordinary book! Art and wisdom poised on the tip of a brush." â "Lee Gurga, Editor, Modern Haiku Press" "When complimented by an understanding of the literal, poetic, and philosophical meaning of the words, looking at Japanese calligraphy can be an exciting aesthetic and intellectual experience. It is with this goal in mind, of unlocking meaning and relevance to the non-Japanese speaker, that Shozo Sato presents his latest publication *Shodo: The Quiet Art of Japanese Zen Calligraphy*." â "Deborah Clearwaters, Director of Education and Interpretation, Asian Art Museum San Francisco" "This book - *SHODO - The Quiet Art of Japanese Zen Calligraphy* - can be enjoyed two ways. One is to start and to practice Calligraphy and two is as an introduction to Zen philosophy. Oh, and for those who are interested in both." â "Iromegane.com blog

Shozo Sato was awarded the Order of Sacred Treasure from the Emperor of Japan for his contributions in teaching Japanese traditions. His areas of expertise include ikebana (flower arranging), chanoyu (tea ceremony), and Japanese theater, as well as sumi-e (ink painting). He is the author of numerous books including *Tea Ceremony*, *Ikebana*

An extraordinary calligraphy book! Even the thickly textured cover feels good. Professor Shozo Sato brings out the life and the human experience from a few brush strokes. I own a book shelf full of calligraphy books, but this is The One. The author very clearly shows you how masterpieces were made, and step by step details how to copy them and make them with your own personal interpretation. I've never seen another book of Japanese or Chinese calligraphy that is able to do that, especially for the Western mind. He transforms each Zen Statement into a meditation. The art student will find in "Shodo" a model for learning and teaching. The monk will find an important collection of Zen Buddhist koans or zengo. The art enthusiast will find fabulously beautiful pieces of Zen art. The practitioner will find thoughtfully nuanced meditative explanations of Zen statements as they relate to the rich teachings of Zen Buddhism. Sato-San seems to have compiled "Shodo" for the training of the mind to recognize earthly reality. The way is not easy, but this book is transformative

and guides you on that path. Only a great master can accomplish that.jk

As an artist and student of Zen, I have long loved Japanese calligraphy but it always felt beyond my capability. When one reads of masters perfecting their techniques over decades, how impertinent does it seem for someone who cannot even read the language to attempt to write it! So for years all I have attempted are ensos. But this beautiful volume, with its clear examples and directions, makes one take courage, primarily because Sato shows each lesson in 4 different styles of calligraphy, from very formal to very informal, so one can attempt what feels closest to one's own nature.

Equally encouraging are the biographies of some of his students and the examples of their work, which are handsome. Most reveal that they do not read Japanese! As my Zen teacher has said, we can do this as a practice of meditation, much as one recites a mantra of sutra, even if one does not understand the language. Thank you Shozo Sato... your book is a treasure!

Beautiful book about a beautiful subject. Nephew , 24 , got great joyIn receiving this compendium on art and calligraphy..he said it truly inspired him to continue his studiesOf kanji and Asian art in general. A great find.

Shozo Sato makes the complex art of Zen Shodo (writing of Zen Sayings or zengo) not only understandable and accessible to the average reader he goes beyond the history and possible Zen meanings to encourage the reader to express themselves in this ancient writing system with simple easy to follow patterns and the never before explained rhythm of the marks. His choices of zengo are relevant today in our lives of "tee shirt and blue jeans" and his wisdom and clarity give the reader access to an extraordinary teacher!

This book is excellent.Beautiful characters, great stroke order guides on all of the characters, well written meanings and cultural context on all of them as well!Got this for a calligraphy student and he loves it.

I love this book. It will help me on my journey with Calligraphy! Very detailed and easy for an old fella like me to follow, haha!!

This book illustrates 'the way of the brush' as a meditative program of mind and heart discipline. A large number of zen sayings are illustrated and commented on in the various calligraphic styles

developed by the Chinese and Japanese artists and scholars. The text is full enough to allow any practitioner to learn this art and practice the discipline. It is also a beautiful production which may be enjoyed just as an extraordinary example of Japanese culture, art, and religion. Highly recommended

Simply put.....lovely book to read....lovely lesson layouts....

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