EAST MEETS WEST
WEST MEETS EAST?
WHERE DO I FIT IN?
IN THE MIDDLE?

EAST

WEST
WHAT DID I LEARN FROM THE EAST?
THE STATUS OF CALLIGRAPHY IS DIFFERENT
IN 2010, A PIECE OF CALLIGRAPHY
BY HUANG YING JIAN (1045 -1105)
SOLD FOR £20,000,000
I THEN ASK MYSELF, WHAT IS CALLIGRAPHY?
WEST - BEAUTIFUL WRITING

CHINESE - SHU FA

JAPANESE - SHO DO
EAST - AN ART FORM

WEST - CRAFT? ART? DESIGN?
I STARTED TO EXPLORE EAST ASIAN PHILOSOPHY AND TRADITIONS
THE CONCEPT OF ‘CHI’
‘CHI’ - BREATHE, SPIRIT
(CALLIGRAPHY BY EDMOND TO, UK)
“‘Chi’ is an elusive term, one whose meaning can be sensed without difficulty but which no simple definition can cover. The fundamental fact that it has to be grasped through intuition indicates that an intellectual definition would fall far short.”

- SZE (1959)
“The idea that Chi, (the breath of heaven), the spirit stirs all of nature to life and sustains the eternal processes of movement and change; and that if a work has ‘chi’ it inevitably reflects a vitality of spirit that is the essence of life itself.”

- SZE, (1956)
“Chi has little to do with intellectual analysis or the intentional making of effort. It also has little to do with struggling or forcing. It is a gentle and natural flow of energy that is open to spontaneity; and lies largely in the realm of non-thinking – a relaxed but highly focused and concentrated force that manifests in a non hesitating, decisive, and unbroken stream, which can only be cultivated with sustained training”
- TANAHASHI, (1998)
SO, WHAT IS CHI IN THE CONTEXT OF CALLIGRAPHY?
‘CHI YUN SHENG TUNG’ - THE FIRST CANON OF PAINTING
BY CHINESE PAINTER HIESH HO (AD 479-502)
(CALLIGRAPHY WRITTEN BY EDMOND TO, UK)
‘CHI YUN SHENG TUNG’
'CHI’
BREATH
AIR
SPirit
ENERGY

'YUN’
VIBRATION
RESONANCE
RHYTHM
RHYTHMIC

'CHI YUN SHENG TUNG’
‘SHENG’
GROWTH
ALIVE
LIFE
VITALITY

‘CHI’
BREATH
AIR
SPIRIT
ENERGY

‘YUN’
VIBRATION
RESONANCE
RHYTHM
RHYTHMIC

‘CHI YUN SHENG TUNG’
‘CHI’
BREATH
AIR
SPIRIT
ENERGY

‘SHENG’
GROWTH
ALIVE
LIFE
VITALITY

‘TUNG’
TO MOVE
GESTURE
MOVEMENT

‘YUN’
VIBRATION
RESONANCE
RHYTHM
RHYTHMIC

‘CHI YUN SHENG TUNG’
RHYTHMIC VITALITY
MAI MAI SZE, 1956

LLOYD REYNOLDS, 1965

RHYTHMIC VITALITY
PHEW!
HOW DO WE APPRECIATE EAST ASIAN CALLIGRAPHY?
1. GESTURAL & EXPRESSIVE ART
2. STUDY THE FORMS

(BOTH INTERNAL & EXTERNAL ASPECTS)
Whosoever thou art that enterest this Church, leave it not without kneeling down & saying a Prayer to God for thyself, for those my ministers, and for those my worship here. Surely the Lord is in this House.
MAO ZEDONG (1956)
天将降大任于斯人也，必先苦其心志劳其筋骨饿其体肤空乏
其身行弗乱其所为，所以动心忍性增益其所不能

EDMOND TO | UK
3. **IT IS A CINEMATIC EXPERIENCE**

*(TAKE THE LINE FOR A WALK!)*
QI GONG (1984)
THE SIMILARITIES?
THE SHARPNESS
“The trueness of the pen strokes shows itself in three characteristics: the strokes are: Sharp-edged, Uniformly made and Swift”

- EDWARD JOHNSTON
Whosoever thou art that enterest this Church, leave it not without kneeling down & saying a Prayer to God for thyself, for those thy minister, and for those worship here.

Sundry the Lord is in this Place.
THE DISCIPLINED FREEDOM
Excerpts from "Song for Saint Cecilia's Day" John Dryden 1687

From Harmony from Heavenly Harmony,
This Universal Frame began,
From Harmony to Harmony
Through all the Compass of the Notes it ran
The Diapason closing Full in Man.
What Passion cannot Music Praise and Dwell?
As from the Power of Sacred Days
The Spheres began to move
And sung the Great Creator's Praise
To all the Blest above.
So when the Last and Dreadful Hour
This crumbling Pageant shall devour
The Trumpet shall be heard on High
The Dead shall live, the Living Die
And Music shall Resound the Sky.

SHEILA WATERS | USA
THE GESTURAL MOVEMENT
THE UNITY
The Unity of 'the making', 'the maker' and 'outcome'

The embodiment of the 'self'
“Our aim should be, I think is to make letters live... that men themselves may have more life”

EDWARD JOHNSTON
The fountain mingle with the river.
And the river with the sea.
The winds of heaven mix for ever
With a sweet emotion.

Nothing in the world is single.
All things by a law divine
In one another’s being mingle—
Why not I with thee?

See the mountains love high heaven,
And the waves clap one another—
So sister flower would be forgone
To deck and sit her brother—

And the sunlight dews the earth,
And the mermaids kiss the sea.
What are all these blessings worth
If there be not me?

‘LOVE’S PHILOSOPHY’ BY P B SHELLEY | MANNY LING, UK