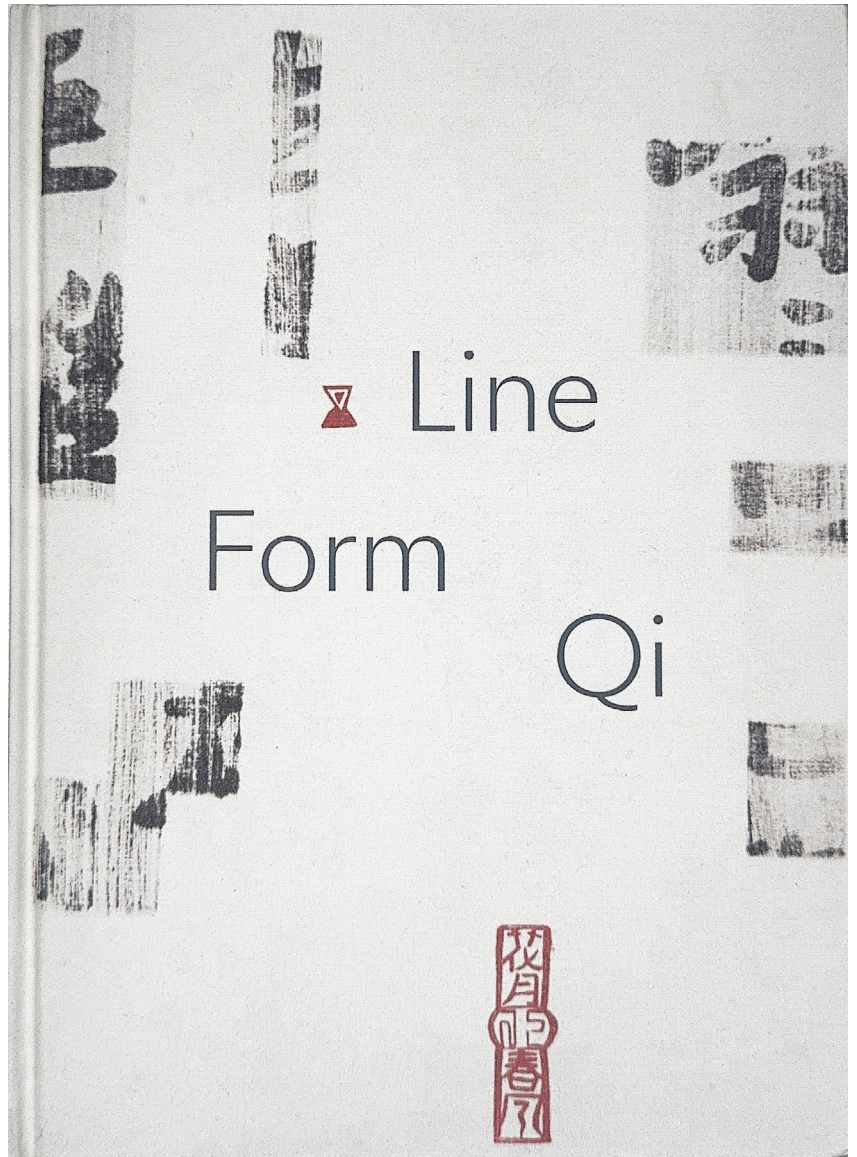


LACMA

EXHIBITION CATALOGUE SUPPLEMENT



Line, Form, Qi: Calligraphic Art from the Fondation Ink Collection

This supplement is produced in conjunction with *Line, Form, Qi: Calligraphic Art from the Fondation Ink Collection* at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, April 6–October 19, 2025.

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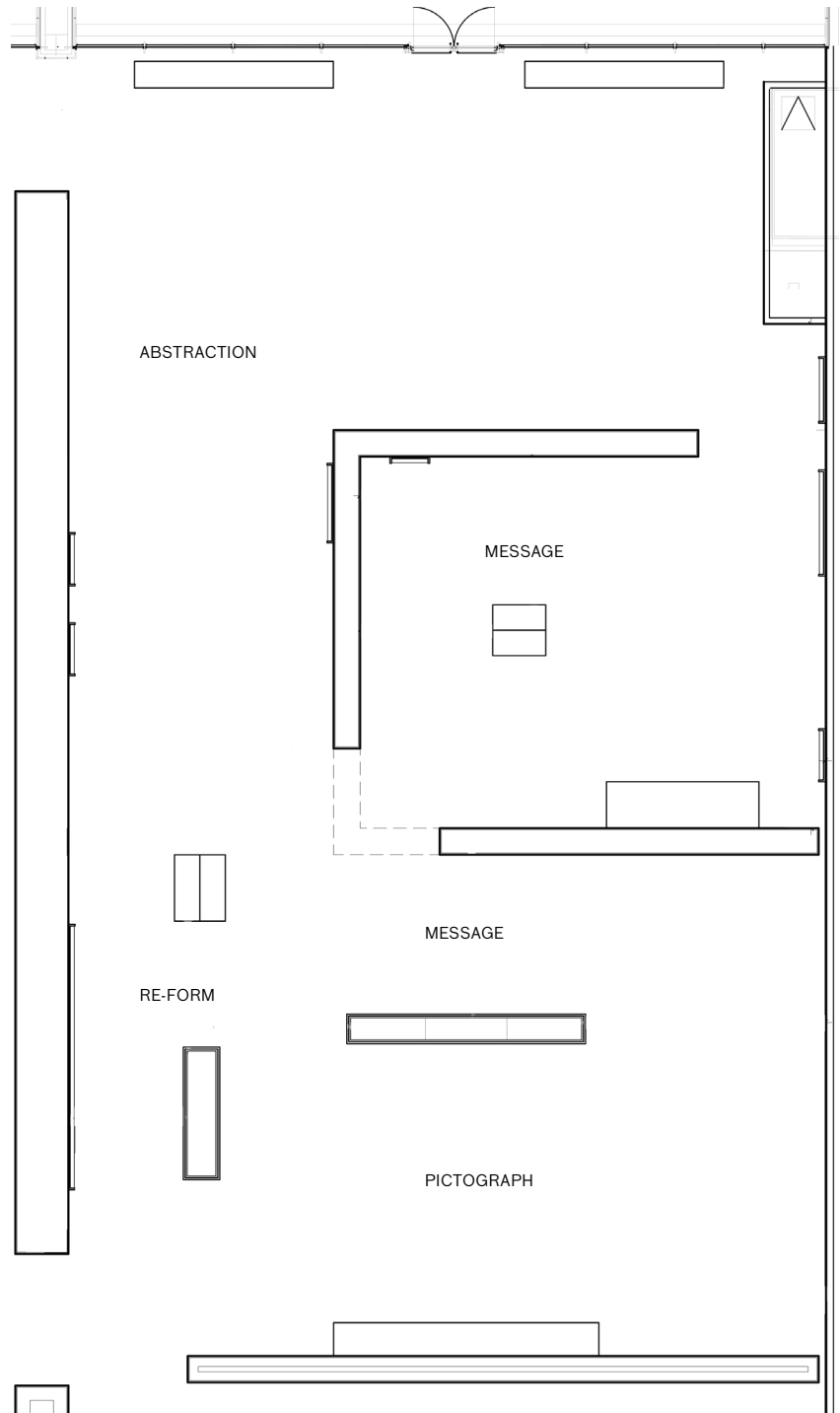
Exhibition Introduction

Line, form, and *qi* are the fundamental components of calligraphy, a practice that has long been considered the highest form of art in China. Chinese scripts have been immensely influential, shaping writing systems in Korea, Japan, and Vietnam. The line—the most basic element of Chinese characters—defines the quality of calligraphy. The form comprises the overall composition as well as the structure of each character. There are five primary historical forms, and many new forms have been created by pioneering artists. The *qi*, a complex but significant concept, can be interpreted as life force, spirit, energy, or “the basic constituent element of the universe.”

Faithful to the tradition of calligraphy but dedicated to experimentation, the thirty-four modern and contemporary artists in this exhibition explore the bounds of calligraphic art. *Line, Form, Qi* delves into the pictographic origin of Chinese characters, the relationship between writing and painting, the formal and conceptual aspects of writing, and artists’ investigation and subversion of traditional calligraphic aesthetics.

Calligraphy remains an important practice within East Asia, where artists adapt the enduring art form to reflect modern life. Featuring works from the Fondation INK Collection, *Line, Form, Qi* presents the contemporary side of this rich visual art, which is both conceptual and technical, and which distinctly reflects the mental and physical state of each practicing artist.

Exhibition Floor Plan



Installation Images



Selected Press Clippings

"The bold and striking beauty of calligraphy takes center stage at LACMA during this state-of-the-art exhibition. See firsthand the modern, experimental works where each stroke of ink showcases the intricate balance of tradition and innovation."

—[Modern Luxury](#)

"LACMA showed a large sample of the gift in 2021, and now it's following up with an all-new selection, 'Line, Form, Qi: Calligraphic Art from the Fondation INK Collection.' With over 60 works by 34 artists, it's nearly as big as the first show and every bit as engaging."

—[Los Angeles County Museum on Fire](#)



Installation photograph, *Line, Form, Qi: Calligraphic Art from the Fondation INK Collection*, at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art

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