

Louise Pauls, Acceptance Speech  
12th Japanese Calligraphy Competition in Canada 2019  
Sunday November 3, 2019

I thank you very much for this award.

By profession I am a classically trained violinist and so have spent many years trying to create a flow of sound through playing lines of notes or melodies. While doing so it helps to have a concept of the phrases as, like calligraphy, you cannot 'erase' some choices, you simply keep on going or work with the choice you made.

The flow that occurs in music is also in Japanese calligraphy and is one of the aspects that I love about it even though I am a beginner to it. The flow and movement of brush on paper, the flow of ink on paper and the flow of the characters themselves. Flow in art, as in life, is essential. In art the eyes are drawn left to right, and up and down by lines. Calligraphy has characters that do all of this in so many ways, and in so many historical styles.

What I also love about this art are the stories and backgrounds that go with each symbol. Many, in their variations, go back thousands of years, and so layer often profound thoughts and meanings in a single combination of strokes or combination of characters.

I plan on continuing this art form and am very fortunate to be part of Maeda Sensei classes. She can do and teach both traditional and new versions of this art that is very inspiring.