



## Out of Character: Decoding Chinese Calligraphy

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What defines a masterwork of calligraphy? *Out of Character*, a collaborative effort from leading Chinese and U.S. scholars, tries to answer this question by focusing on fifteen calligraphic masterpieces. Supporting these masterworks are an additional twenty-five works of the highest quality.

Calligraphy has been admired as the ultimate art form by China's educated elite for more than 2,000 years. Over that time a complex set of rules and conventions has evolved that impacts every aspect of the calligrapher's practice. Within the constraints of their artistic tradition, creativity and self-expression have remained of primary importance to the Chinese calligrapher. With mind and hand in accord, Chinese calligraphers express the strength of their character in the characters they write. *Out of Character* provides the context and the critical tools viewers need to understand why this art form has been so admired in the Chinese tradition.

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