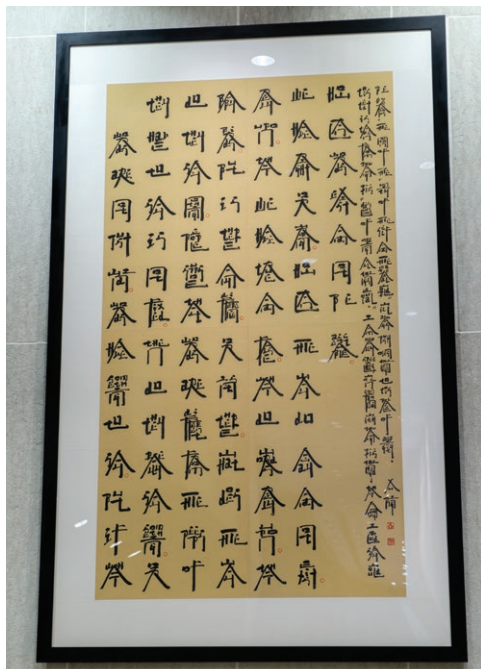


🔍 FIND Square Word Calligraphy



✓ **SELECT** a “character” from the work and try to DECODE what it means.

Square Word Calligraphy, 2014.
Ink on paper, H290 x W178 cm.

✍️ **WRITE** down some of the most memorable elements for you about this work.

✓ CHECK THIS OUT!

Square Word Calligraphy is a special way of writing designed by Xu Bing. It appears to be Chinese characters, but actually it is a system for arranging English alphabets. He combined Chinese calligraphy and English lettering by organizing the 26 alphabets into structures that resemble Chinese characters.



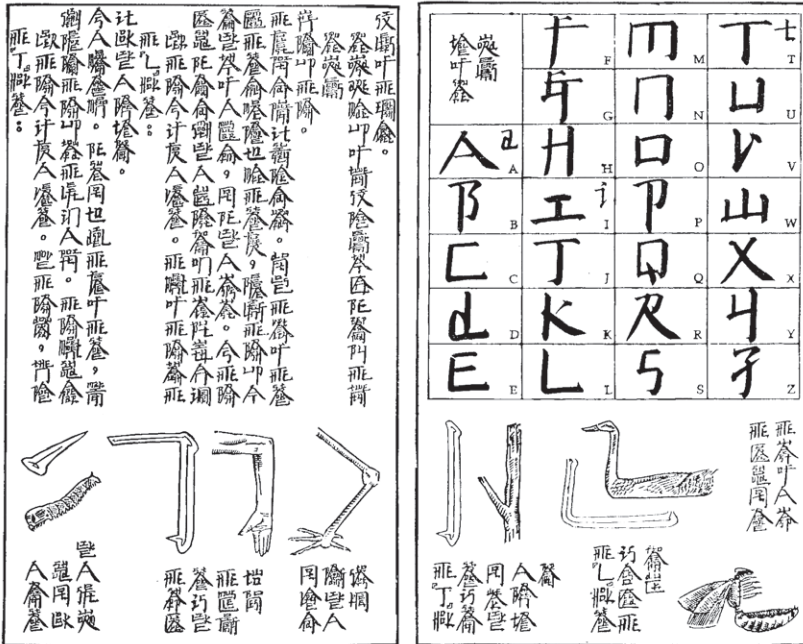
IMAGINE you only speak English, what would you see? If you only speak Chinese, what would you see?



HEAR what the artist says:

“The interesting aspect of this work lies in its ability to transform people’s restrictive way of thinking. This is a kind of liberation and it is the liberation of the mind.”

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Text pages from *An Introduction to Square Word Calligraphy* (1994-1996), wood block hand-printed book and ink rubbing with wood cover; water-based ink on grass paper, 39x23x2.7cm. Photo Courtesy of Xu Bing Studio.



Square Word Calligraphy Classroom, 1994-1996, Classroom installation with instructional video, model books (*An Introduction to Square Word Calligraphy*), copybooks, ink, brushes, brush stands, blackboard, framed student work. Installation view from Xu Bing in Berlin, Museum für Ostasiatische Kunst, Berlin (now Museum für Asiatische Kunst), Germany, 2004. Photo Courtesy of Xu Bing Studio.

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