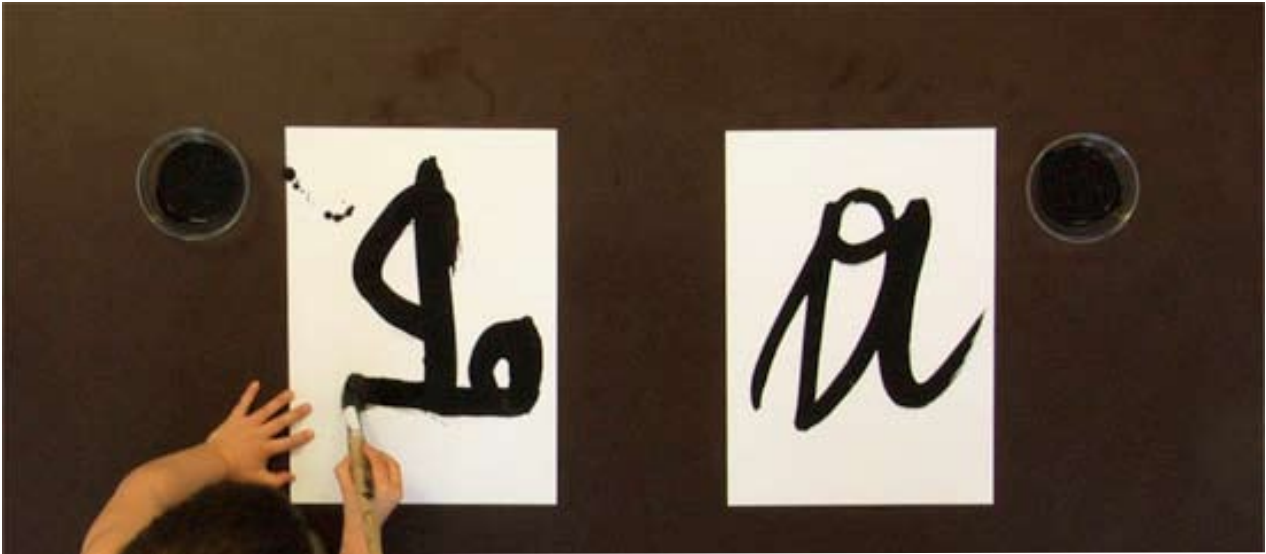


BACK TO BASIC



<http://www.xelor.nl/xelor/pile.php?item=abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz>

The stories of our life were in the beginning portrayed with drawn images that were left as memories and traces on the walls of caves. As we became cleverer another way of expressing our selves was invented. Symbols were simplified and translated into words consisting of lines in specific shapes that were organized in a particular order. Later on, our hand was no longer needed to draw the lines of letters. It became even more effective to communicate, once again because of our intelligence and innovation of creating machines. However, a prominent consequence off it all meaning the replacement of handwriting, is that writing became less personal, flourished and diverse.

As buttons began to replace hand labor our connection to substance disappeared. Ever since everything is continually becoming conceptual or digital, knowledge about material and its qualities is no longer needed.

Roel Walter is part of a group of conditional designers. Conditional Design is an approach facing the dynamic, data-driven society of today. Embracing the continuing present of engineering and developments instead of emphasizing the past, it tries to portray the complexity and beauty of this landscape.

Based on the logic and structured characteristics of computers, Roel and his team position themselves as interactive workers in the framework of a machine. Furthermore, they are bound to follow certain instructions and the range of tools that they can use to accomplish their assignments is very restricted.

In that sense there is a small amount of possibilities and freedom for subjective intentions and they can never predict where they end up. The result is always unknown.

In addition, Conditional Design has a strong focus on the process as a product; things that adapt to their environment emphasize change and show difference.

The video “ABCDEFGHIJKLMN OPQRSTUVWXYZ” created by Roel Walter, shows a drawing workshop (pic.above) of Roels son and his brother, who both are very fond of letters. During a relatively fast passed session they sit side by side drawing the entire alphabet simultaneously. .

In my opinion, this work makes you contemplate about the essential qualities of handwriting. With very simple and basic elements letters becomes more than lines. A child can trigger honesty and playfulness with a small amount of tools and reveal the true origin of creative expression, which seem to been lost because of the need for speed.

In addition, the message their action becomes even more effective by the placement of the paper. To use the floor as the supporting surface for the paper is enhancing the physical action of the work, which for me is highly linked with the primitive behavior of cavemen.

So maybe one should go back to basic and rediscover the fun of drawing letters. Continue to create interactive games that resemble games one made up as a kid.