



# Big Brush

I stand, feet planted, arms dropped, until the whiteness of the paper calls me to action. Like the shimmer of water calling one off a diving board or the tremor of the high wire calling one off the platform, there is no turning back.

Something inside pushes me forward. I walk over to the brush and lift it out of the bucket with both hands. As the ink pours off the hairs I realize I have to move quickly so that the brush will stay loaded enough to make it through the whole stroke.

I gather my mind and step onto the paper. A trail of large black drops follows the brush, then a slapping splattering black contact with the white surface is made. I take a wide stance, bend my knees and

I lean closer to the hairs, coaxing them across the roughness of the paper. I move to the right, then turn the corner and pull the brush down to the left with a long, slow stroke.

I step backwards and the brush follows. As the ink thins, white streaks break through the blackness. Arriving at the bottom of the long sheet I can bear the tension no longer and I cut up to the right quickly and move off the paper.

With the ink still dripping and my heart pounding, I walk to the bucket and plunge the brush in.

Join Teach Me Peace with Barbara Bash for a  
Calligraphy Mind Experience

*What is the experience of making our mark?*

Lake Geneva, WI Grand Geneva Resort

September 19, 2009

8:00 AM to 5:00 PM \$200

To register email [Valerie@teachmepeace.org](mailto:Valerie@teachmepeace.org)

In this retreat with celebrated brush painter, illustrator and author Barbara Bash, we will work with brushes small and large, clear water and buckets of ink, to explore, touch and express the awake mind of calligraphy. The oriental principles of heaven, earth, and human provide a deep structure and guidance for our steady lines and spontaneous marks. We go through lives making our marks in so many ways. Here, with brush and ink, how we manifest in the world can be seen directly. We appreciate our minds—and our lives—when we make a true stroke of the moment.

Teach Me Peace

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