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The Art of the Pen By Aneesh Karuppur

Electronics are like the color beige, they're ordinary. Everyone has a smartphone, a smartwatch, and everyone types i a boring font where all of the letters look exactly the same. But with the pen, your handwriting is distinctly yours. The pen can actually conform to your writing style and it shows. Each handwritten letter has its own character, like a person in a story In fact, I have a replica of Mark Twain's favorite fountain pen (where ink flows into the nib and onto the paper through gravity). When I write with this pen, I can imagine Huckleberry Finn sailing down the Mississippi

There are a few types of modern pens, like the ballpoint, rollerball, fountain (or calligraphy) and felt tip (marker).

All types of pens essentially dispense ink through a nib, albeit in different ways. The ballpoint and rollerball pens use a hard sphere to roll ink onto paper, while fountain pens use the forces of gravity to pull ink from a reservoir into a nib, which is a crown-shaped piece of metal with a slit to transfer the ink to the paper. Finally, marker or felt tip pens have a fibrous wedge soaked in ink.

The pen has an illustrious history. The Ancient Egyptians used a reed pen to write on papyrus, which they used as paper. During the Middle Ages, the quill pen, made of feathers from a bird, gradually replaced the reed pen because it could retain its sharp writing nib for much longer. The quill pen is also believed to have been used in writing the Dead Sea Scrolls, a collection of Jewish papers found around the Dead Sea, dating back to 100 BCE. A final feather in the cap of the quill pen was that our founding fathers signed and wrote the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and other early American documents using quill pens.

The modern metal-nib pen that we use today traces back to Pompeii, where a copper pen nib was probably used before 79 CE. A member of Parliament, Samuel Pepys, made note of a "silver pen to carry ink in" in 1663.

Emails do not convey emotions or feelings. They are just words. Flat, each letter exactly the same as the one before it. However, words that stem from a pen release a burst of personality and make reading more enjoyable. Each person has a different writing style. Some people write large capital letters and small lowercase letters. Others craft words using wide and stubby characters. You can add your own personalization to your words. Also, there is much more value in something that took time and effort to create. What if, instead of autographs, everyone was emailed a typed name? Would this electronic autograph have as much value? Of course not. When reading a handwritten letter, you feel as if the person is sitting next to you, laughing at the jokes, and describing scenes.

Technology has progressed, and we now have mass-produced pens such as ballpoint, rollerball, fountain, and many others. Expensive, hand crafted pens are sold as well. A plastic ball point pen can be bought for less than a dollar, and an Italian fountain pen studded with 123 rubies and 945 black diamonds went for close to \$8 million at auction. There is a pen for everybody, and some people even favor certain pens over others because of the comfort and smoothness they provide.

People are now beginning to make art on tablets and computers and are gradually drifting away from typical paintbrushes. Similarly, electronics have replaced the art, in this case, of writing. In ancient times, being able to write guaranteed someone a high government position.

I believe we should keep the art of calligraphy alive, and with it, we must keep the art of the pen alive.

As the Roman poet Horace said, "The pen is the tongue of the mind."

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# Artwork by Grace Alto



### Artwork by Samuel Irekvist



VOTING DAY

BY: ANDY SHI

The election is a matchup where two candidates fight for glory, but this year, does anyone really win?

Ecto 1



Don't be afraid of those ghosts this Halloween!



### CANDY CORN STITCH BY YASAMAN SAATSAZ



Stitch is so happy that he smushed himself against the glass.

Stich has just figured out what his costume for Halloween should be! Can you guess what it will be?

Autumn Princess



Artwork by: Sheridan Ameo



### Artwork by Fiona Shanahan



#### Wolf Artwork by Quinn Butterfield





#### Artwork by Grace Alto

## JACK-O-LANTERN



### By Fiona Shanahan



Artwork by: Julia Clemente



#### **By Abigail Shanahan**



Every day, women are spending loads of money on name brand lipsticks. Why spend \$30 or more on one tube or stick, when you can buy dupes for a lot less? For example, instead of buying a very popular brand's lipstick for \$30, why not buy a drug store one, that is the exact same color, for just \$6. Women are spending money every day on expensive name brand cosmetics when they can buy dupes. I believe they are just as good, for less than half the price.





By Kayla Cullinane



#### Hurricane Matthew

#### by Simon Zhang



# ARTWORK BY GRACE ALTO







# Artwork by: Julia Clemente

Cat in a Tree



Artwork by: Anna Lee





Mediocre Comic by Ethan Hung



### Pumpkin Pastel Drawing by: Francesca Salas