



The Stroke: Theory of Writing

By Gerrit Noordzij

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Appearing for the first time in an English-language edition, *The Stroke* puts forward a genuine theory of writing—that is, the concepts behind letters on the page, whether by pen, pencil, or brush. Concerned not with art calligraphy and beautiful forms, *The Stroke* is a description of the phenomenon of letters and how they are made in writing. Starting from basic principles, Noordzij begins with the white space that creates definition by surrounding letters. Then, using simple geometrical concepts, he describes in minute detail how the strokes of writing can be formed. His theory serves to repair the split that grew up, with the invention of printing, between written and typographic letters. With *The Stroke*, Noordzij can be seen as a prophet of digital typography committed to freeing typefaces from the constraints of their embodiment in metal.

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