



2017 TFG  
Conference

# Drawing on Emptiness

*Peter Fraterdeus*  
*Emptiness Design*  
*Galena, IL*

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Emptiness is an ancient design pattern, going back thousands of years to Lao Tzu and his Tao De Chiing, and beyond. In this hands-on session, we'll engage in some mindful play with pencil, marker and notepads, in search of that paradoxical "nothing" which enfolds all our figures and forms.

To better understand the importance of emptiness as a design pattern, we use techniques developed by Dr. Betty Edwards in her best-selling *Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain*, as well as Zen exercises for confounding our rote approach to looking without seeing. We will use simple accessible tools to approach the quiet space — paper, pencil, markers, and the close observation of one's own deliberate awareness.

This session is not just for visual artists or designers, but equally valuable in corporate and business environments. It will help move the mind into "R-mode" (non-linear right brain), quieting the "L-mode" (linear left brain) and allowing us to address creative projects with increased awareness of the larger context which is the relationship between the components. We gain an enhanced, mindful appreciation of the dynamic relationship between figure and ground, in all manifestations.

Our practice will further examine the root of our marking and, indeed, of all our making—the visualization attention chain. Picking up a tool, moving it across the page, lifting it away. Each requires a complex sequence of micro-decisions, each moment, an application of intent and will. To examine this process deeply opens profound channels for mindful introspection. All action, all speech, all innovation must follow these same patterns.

## **About the Speaker**

### **Peter Fraterdeus**

Peter Fraterdeus is a calligrapher, type designer, two-time NEA grantee (1981, 1985; in Calligraphic Lettering, Inscriptional, and Type Design), student of Zen Shodo and Irish fiddler. His "Make a Mindful Mark" seminars are for anyone seeking to better focus intention and attention, through engaging the hand, eye, heart, and mind. He teaches internationally.