

The Alphabet Garden

Welcome to an exciting look at Victorian style versals which are brimming with garden florals, vines, leaves, and even some bugs and butterflies. The Victorians had a fascination with illuminated letters and ornaments from the Medieval and Renaissance eras. As I was researching Victorian letter styles as well as Medieval Puzzle Letters, I started to play with ways to combine floral ornamentation with various styles of versals. As I researched and developed different ideas, I was amazed at just how “dancing” and whimsical these letters could become. The letters themselves can be reflective of any season depending on the colours you use or the decorative details that are added. There are endless possibilities. Students of all skill levels will be able to explore these amazing letters. Bring a sense of play to this class and let the joy begin!

General Supply List:

Any size Mechanical Pencil, small white vinyl or kneaded eraser, small ruler may be helpful

3B Pencil with tracing paper or a light pad to transfer your design

Graph paper can be helpful to design your letter, or you can use blank paper

Repositionable Scotch Tape or Paper Clips (helpful in transferring your letter)

2 sheets of 5”x7” 140 lb Hot Press Watercolour Paper

Small, pointed round watercolour brushes (I use Isabey Miniature Series 6229 sizes 2 and 3)

McCaffery Brown Ink or Ziller Buffalo Brown ink with penholder and any medium flexible nib such as Zebra G

A crowquill pen is helpful for filigree work but is optional for this class

Your favourite watercolours of any colour or brand. (John Neal sells an inexpensive dot card of my favourite colours which will be more than enough for this class.)

Titanium white watercolour for a special painting technique

A small white ceramic plate for mixing paint. This acts as a very versatile palette.

Waterdish, paper towel

Either Gold Watercolour/Gouache or 23K transfer gold leaf with Miniature ink and small brush.

(I will be demonstrating with gold leaf, but you can choose to use metallic gold watercolour if you do not want to invest in gilding supplies)

Optional Embellishment such as Swarovski crystals, Sakura Clear Stardust Gelly Roll Pen, pastels, etc.

