

# ILLUMINATED LETTER ART TECHNIQUES

## WATERCOLOR

- use the right paper: watercolor or some other paper designed to get wet.
- Have a few different shaped brushes (like a round and a flat brush); having options will give you more control over the paint.
- Work light to dark. Removing the dark color once applied is difficult, and the lighter watercolor colors won't cover them up.
- Too much water lightens the colors but can also make them run.
- Not enough water can cause a streaky color.
- Wet brush on dry paper gives you more control over your brushstrokes.
- A wet brush on wet paper gives a watercolor "wash." (A large area of irregular color.)
- Colors will bleed together if they are both wet. If you want to layer the colors or add details, wait until the colors are dry.
- Before adding a pen or gold leaf, wait until the paint is completely dry.

## GOLD LEAF

- gold leaf is the LAST step; you must have everything else in your piece done before you start.
  - Apply your Mod Podge where you want your gold leaf to be.
  - Once the Mod Podge is tacky, carefully place gold leaf on top.
  - When the piece is dry, use a dry brush to brush the excess gold leaf away.
  - Seal the gold leaf with a thin layer of Mod Podge on top.
- \*\*If you would like the gold leaf to be raised above the level of the paper, create that bulk with hot glue first.

<https://www.strathmoreartist.com/blog-reader/id-7-watercolor-tips-for-beginners>

<https://barnabasgold.com/how-to-mod-podge-for-gold-leaf/?srsltid=AfmBOopBJT5RKmwfS6hoW0LdS6YaFcJwg6R3nzMO3idk6qtJqfqbsHi6>