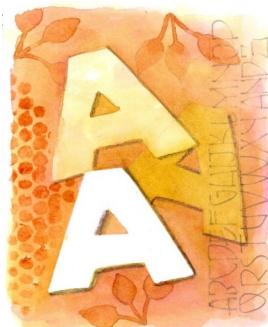


**POSITIVE ABOUT THE NEGATIVE...
Adding Letters and Text
A Mixed Media Workshop with Violet Smythe**

January 17, 24 and 31, 2026, 1 - 4 p.m

Live via Zoom with Tech Hosts Sharon Shannon and Michal Sommers.

In this workshop you will explore the wonders of negative painting, incorporating letters and text to create some contemporary piece(s). You'll work with Neuland and other letterforms, applying them to your piece(s) in a variety of methods. You'll work with skeleton letters and slowly build up the layers of letters and colour to design "backgrounds" before adding a final element, your choice of text in a monoline hand (or script hand).



We will have access to Padlet to share work with each other and for individuals to offer their work to Violet for her guidance. The workshop will be recorded and available for viewing for 90 days.



Violet Smythe is a visual artist, lettering enthusiast and instructor that is passionate about art and calligraphy. She has had the opportunity to study under many gifted and talented teachers as well as some world-renowned instructors and she loves to share her passion for watercolour painting, calligraphy, and mixed media arts with others. Her work has been included in several juried exhibitions and several of her pieces can be found in private collections.

Instagram [@v.smythe_art](https://www.instagram.com/v.smythe_art)

IG hashtags: [#paintwithviolet](#)

Art Blog <http://vsmythedesign.blogspot.com/>

[#letterwithviolet](#)

[#drawwithviolet](#)

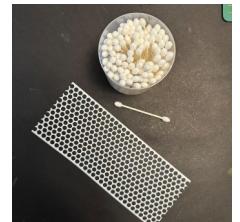
SUPPLIES:

- Watercolours and or liquid watercolours - if you are new to watercolour, a 16 pan Prang set works great and has brilliant dye-based colours
- Round brush – like Princeton Velvet Touch #8
- Flat Brush – $\frac{3}{4}$ ", $\frac{1}{2}$ ' and or $\frac{1}{4}$ " (whatever you have in hand)
- Old toothbrush (for spatter)
- Water containers (2), paper towels, palette for mixing
- Mister or spray bottle to keep your paints moist
- Graphite pencil and or water-soluble pencils (like General Sketch Wash or Derwent Sketching Wash)
- HB pencil or H pencil, kneadable eraser
- Sharpie fine liner or Micron Pigma Pen – between 0.1 and 0.5mm
- Balsa Wood Alphabet Letters, about 2" high (or cut a few from thick paper board, or use stencils)
- 2 - 30 ml Precision Needle Tip Applicator Bottles
- Black Acrylic Craft Paint, like Plaid Folk Art
- Pebeo Drawing fluid/Masking Fluid/Frisket
- MacTac or Contact Paper – Clear, Transparent film - Removable
- Cutting board, Exacto® Blade (sharp)
- Masking tape $\frac{1}{2}$ " or larger
- Papers – your choice... Cold Press #140 Hot Press #140, Arches Text Wove or MBM, Bristol or Mixed Media paper. We will be working no larger than 8.5"x11" – if you have offcuts these work well.
- Bond or layout paper to work out your designs (optional)



OTHER SUPPLIES THAT YOU MAY WISH TO HAVE IN HAND...

- Colour pencils, gel pens
- Your favourite dip nibs and waterproof black ink
- White gouache
- Bister and or Brusho, Walnut ink, Sumi, metallic watercolour or granulating colours if you have them
- Tracing paper
- Light table - if you have one
- hairdryer, gator board or artist canvas board (Dollar Store variety) to use as a surface to tape your work to (or place a piece of cardboard in a plastic sleeve)
- Punchinella (to add texture), cotton swabs (or make up sponges, sea sponge...)
- Schminke powder if you have some
- Stencils (positive and negative pieces), if you have any



Registrants will receive a link to a video explaining some preparation work that will need to be completed before the workshop. Only a few letters are required.

REGISTRATION:

Registration is from December 1, 2025 to January 10, 2026. Cost is \$115 USD.
Registrations postmarked between December 1 and December 13 are eligible for an Early Bird price of \$100. Registrations postmarked after December 13 must pay \$115.
Two scholarships will be offered at 50% to members of record on December 1. Contact Ellen Brannin.
Questions about the workshop – contact Georgie Knapp, georgie.shearn@gmail.com
Questions about registration – contact Ellen Brannin, ellenbrannin@gmail.com

Registration Form:

This workshop is open to all GVCG members. If you are not a member and wish to take this workshop please click on the link below to become a member and then you can register for the workshop. Your workshop registration will not be final unless you are a fully paid member.

(Membership is \$25 – click on <https://www.gvcalligraphy.org/img/gvbg-membership-form-2025.pdf>)

Checks are preferred. There will be no refunds as this workshop's recording will be available for 90 days.

Please complete this form and mail it with your check **No earlier than December 1, payable to GVCG**. Email Ellen at ellenbrannin@gmail.com for mailing address, or look in the guild directory.

If outside the USA, you may pay by PayPal. You must cover the PayPal fees. If within the USA, you may pay by Venmo. Contact Georgie.shearn@gmail.com for instructions.

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone Number: _____

Your check Number: _____

You will receive a confirmation of your registration after payment is received. Thank you for signing up for this workshop!

NO audio or video recording of any program, meeting, workshop or other GVCG function permitted without consent of both guest artist and a representative of the guild. You must ask permission of the artist/instructor to photograph any copyrighted materials, including demos.