

control over the manipulation of your letters.

- ➔ Write your letters by hand and manipulate the size and color as desired.

- 1 Consider the scale of your letters. I like large letters that accentuate their details. I also like to crop them to make their form more dynamic. You can print a letter as large as your printer paper.

**tip:** If you're using a design program, change the letter so that it is only the outline of the letter. If you're using word-processing software, you can change your text color to white letters, and the highlight color to black. Please respect the font designer's work and check the copyright permissions.

- 2 Apply color to your letterforms. Paint the letters with your acrylics, opaquely or with a glaze. Don't worry about staying in the lines. Once they are fully dry, carefully cut out the letters and set them aside.

**tip:** I use an X-Acto knife since it is more precise, especially if you have little curlicue areas, but you can also use scissors.

## assemble the collage

- 1 Return to the canvas and decide in which section you will place the letterforms. Add a coat or two of glaze to this section to enhance the background tone.
- 2 While you wait for the canvas to dry, work in the other two



*Believe* 9" x 12" (23 x 30.5 cm)



*Summer Flourish* 9" x 12" (23 x 30.5 cm)



*Stepping Stones* 6" x 6" (15 x 15 cm)

## washes and glazes

There are many ways to apply paint besides using it right out of the tube. Washes and glazes are my mainstays for paint application. Both of them are a means of lightening up the saturation of the paint hue, yet they are very different in nature. I work in this method so I can control the colors and values of the painting slowly and thoughtfully. It is difficult to get too dark or too heavy with color when you are working in transparent layers.

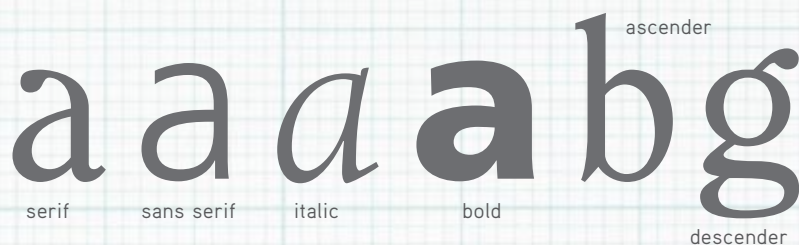
A wash is when you add water to the paint. This not only dilutes the color, but it breaks down the body of the paint so it is a watery liquid. I like to pour and drip the watery paint onto the surface to create organic visual texture. Washes are delicate, transparent, and movable like watercolor.

A glaze is made by adding matte medium to the paint color. Like a wash, the color will lighten, but the body of the paint remains viscous. It will not drip or pool, but rather glide onto the surface. You can also use gloss medium, which will dry with a glossy finish. ★

sections. Add paint and/or glazes, collage papers, and other elements as desired. Use a paintbrush and matte medium to adhere and seal any papers you add.

- 3 When the background for the letterforms is complete and dry, brush matte medium onto the area where the first letter will go, and then gently put the letter in place. Brush matte medium on top of the letter, smoothing out any wrinkles. Add additional letters in the same manner. Step back and evaluate as you work; the piece is complete when there is no room left for improvement.

## LETTERFORM → MINI PRIMER



An example of the different letter shapes as they would appear outlined in a design program. Consider choosing letters for their form or use them to spell out a specific word.

