

Micrography

They say the pen is mightier than the sword and when it comes to art technique how we use the pen has been a long tradition of lines crossing over each other. This term is called Hatching or Cross Hatching when you draw lines over each other to create depth, shadow and form.

However there is another technique not commonly known that has been around since the 9th century. This highly specialized form has been hidden in religious text, marriage contracts and decorative items. **Micrography** is the use of words to create an image, this use of word art has been hiding in the history books for hundreds of years. Now we are seeing an emergence of the art form take on a new depth.



<http://www.bl.uk/catalogues/illuminatedmanuscripts/record.asp?M SID=6561&CollID=8&NStart=647>
(9th Century Micrography)

(from **Greek**, literally small-writing – "Μικρογραφία"), also called **microcalligraphy**, is a **Jewish** form of **calligrams** developed in the 9th century, with parallels in Christianity and Islam,^[1] utilizing minute **Hebrew letters** to form representational, geometric and

abstract designs. Colored micrography is especially distinctive because these rare artworks are customarily rendered in black and white.

-Wikipedia

Artist; Meclina Priestley was fifteen years old when she approached the art form. Working with her art teacher they tackled the idea of not just writing the words across the page but creating depth and texture.

"It was exciting creating in this new medium that presented a new set of challenges". Over the years, Meclina would pick up her passion for words and play with concept to develop the idea of taking the medium from graphic design to fine art. With the use of acrylic paint and India ink she began building the layers of paint to create a smooth substrate that would allow



the ink to flow. She then began the process of deconstructing the form of a portrait and navigating through the shadows and forms of the face. With this new freedom of creating her own rules she now pushes her own limits and expectations into this fascinating art form.



Meclina's work has been shown in galleries, museums and exhibitions throughout the United States. Most of her work is by private commissions. It is her goal to share this art form globally and not only educate viewers but also inspire them to look at words in a new way. "This art form has been enjoyed by few, it's time to celebrate the written word in this manner on a larger stage."

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