

# *Black Hours Illumination*

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## **Class topics and materials list**

### **Differences in various Black Hours manuscripts**

- Different Black Hours used different color schemes; the Sforza Black Hours was multicolored, whereas, for example, the Morgan Black Hours uses a very limited palette with blue and green heavily dominant (in addition to the metallics), and the “Spanish” Black Hours is gold and silver only
- Today’s sample will be based on the Sforza Black Hours (see end of handout or this link) [https://www.ziereisfacsimiles.com/black-prayer-book-of-galeazzo-maria-sforza?fbclid=IwAR2iuOZmfQDU2c3wPxbsod6aXYDLxfWfp9aFRZISU0MfUe8V29DAhP\\_tyw](https://www.ziereisfacsimiles.com/black-prayer-book-of-galeazzo-maria-sforza?fbclid=IwAR2iuOZmfQDU2c3wPxbsod6aXYDLxfWfp9aFRZISU0MfUe8V29DAhP_tyw)

### **Materials**

- Black ground (either vellum or paper)
  - David Bianco sells vellum through his Etsy shop: <https://www.etsy.com/shop/asofa>
  - Black watercolor paper
  - Strathmore black “Artagain” pad
  - For this class I will be using Strathmore “Black Board” artist trading cards available through several outlets
- Pencil and white eraser
- Gold and silver
  - Shell gold or silver
  - For this class, Coliro/Finetec metallic paints available through John Neal, Bookseller
    - Sterling Silver and Arabian gold
- Standard colors
  - Red, a light to medium blue, green, optional brown
    - Gouaches, powdered pigments
    - NOT translucent watercolors
- One small paintbrush
  - Size 0 or 1 will be fine; it isn’t necessary to go super small

## Steps

1. Sketch out a loose design in pencil, marking where flowers, critters, and acanthus leaves will go
2. Paint objects largest to smallest:
  - a. Acanthus leaves and hidden critters - typically done in silver and gold
  - b. Flowers and fruits - typically done in red and blue
  - c. Leaves - green, but some extra leaves were done in just gold or silver outline
3. Highlight flowers and leaves with metallics
  - a. Red and optional brown get gold highlights; blue and green get silver
4. Fill in stems and vines with metallics
5. Fill in empty spaces with squiggles and dots in metallics
6. Outline border in accordance with exemplar (gold, silver, or a combination)
  - a. We won't be doing that on our card today, but if you were doing a scroll border you would definitely want to outline it, both inside and outside, to separate it from the text block
7. Step back to admire your work!

**A**d completorium,  
 O mnia te nos deus  
 salutaris nosce,  
 Et auerte iram tuam  
 a nobis.

**D**eus in adiuto-  
 rum meum intende,  
 Gloria patri et filio et spiritui sancto  
 sicut erat in principio et nunc et  
 semper et in secula seculorum. Amen. **P**s  
**S**per expugnauerunt me ad-  
 ueritate mea dixit nunc israel  
**S**per expugnauerunt me  
 ad ueritate mea eceum non potuerit in-  
 supra dorsum meum fabricauerunt  
 pedes prolongauerunt iniquitate sua  
**C**ominus iustus concidet ceruices  
 peccatorum confundantur et conuertantur  
 in uentrem suum omnes qui oderunt hy-

