

## A10 VISIGOTHIC VERSALS

### A10 SUPPLIES

**Pens/Pencils:** Micron pen, #01 & #05; pen nibs, Brause #1 and #1-1/2 or equivalent; 2-B and hard lead pencils for ruling. **Ink/Paint:** Black gouache; watercolors. **Paper:** Arches Text Wove or similar; grid paper 8 1/2" x 11" (4-6 sheets). **Misc:** Eraser, T-Square, ruler, mixing container for gouache and loading brush, water paint brushes, selection ranging from #000 to #2, quotation or poem of your choice – a minimum of 16 words. **Material fee:** \$10

Visigothic Versals are an exclusive, distinct and independent lettering tradition unique to 7th–11th century Spain. They were used during the magnificent artistic period when the Ottoman Empire of the East met the Holy Roman Empire of the West. Spain's artistic treasures, the Beatus Manuscripts, are written in Visigothic Versals and illustrated in the Mozarabic art style. These letterforms and irresistible ligatures are as strong as Spanish ironwork, as delicate as "mantilla" lace, and as passionate as the music called Flamenco. We begin with a slide presentation and discussion of manuscripts, followed by familiarizing ourselves with the letterforms by working with pencil on grid paper before moving to gouache and finally moving to color, layout and design. There are many references via medieval and modern hand-

outs, zoomorphic majuscules, a peek at the charming Mozarabic art style and palette, along with individual attention at every 'Spanish Step' ensures your successful and happy acquaintance with Visigothic Versals, ole.



## Risa Gettler



Risa Gettler combines her education and career in Graphic Design with her lifelong study of Letter Arts. She has studied calligraphy in America, Italy and Spain. Risa has been a guest on radio and television discussing the joys of creating and teaching Calligraphy. Risa's calligraphy artwork is in juried exhibits from coast to coast and in international art publications.

Risa's pursuit of Visigothic Versals has taken her to Barcelona, Spain, Princeton University (Department of Spanish Medieval Art), the Morgan Library, Getty Center and UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies. Her Visigothic Versals artwork, *What Alzheimer's Has Taught Me*, was featured at the conference of the National Council on Aging, on a CD of medieval Spanish music titled, *Alchemy*, which was funded by The National Endowment of the Arts, corporate logos and publications including *Bound and Lettered* and *Letter Arts Review*. [inkcredible.org](http://inkcredible.org)