

BOWERS MUSEUM

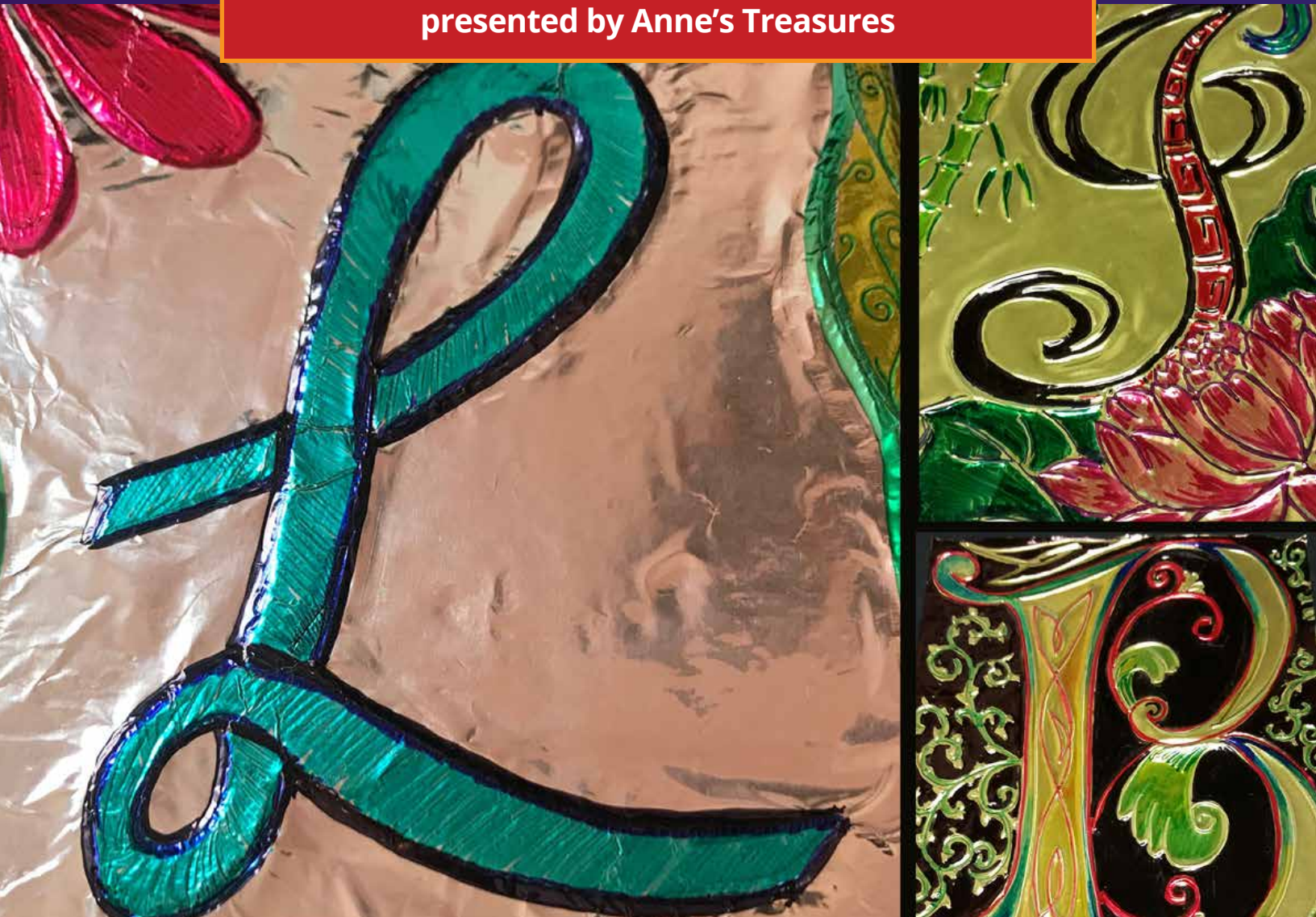
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Art Projects for the entire family,
presented by Anne's Treasures



ANNE'S TREASURES

ILLUMINATED LETTERS

MATERIALS:

Cardboard base	Scissors	Cardboard, or paper plates
Aluminum foil	Pencil	Glue stick
Permanent markers	*X-acto knife	
	*optional	

Don't forget to share your final product on social @bowersmuseum #bowersathome!

CONTEXT:

Illuminated manuscripts have been around for centuries, but the most well-known manuscripts were created during the Middle Ages. Before the printing press was invented in the 1400s, books were handwritten, and hand drawn. The word manuscript itself comes from *manus*, (hand) and *scribere*, (to write). Monasteries were the epicenters for these highly decorated manuscripts until the 1200s. Illuminated letters in manuscripts were typically the first letter of the page or paragraph, enlarged and decorated with gold leaf, borders and miniature scenes.

PROCEDURE:

- 1 You will need a base to work on. It can be canvas board, wood, or matboard. Just make sure your aluminum foil can cover it.
- 2 Cut the aluminum foil so that it is larger than the base by at least 1 inch all around. Set it aside for later. Tip: Foil creases easily, so be gentle when handling it.
- 3 Cut out extra cardboard or use paper plates for the images.





4

Use a pencil to sketch your initial large enough to fit into base. Make it any style you wish and give it width to make it easier to cut out with scissors (use an x-acto knife if available).

5

Cut out the letter and any other design you want to add. For example: vines, flowers, circles, or any design you can safely cut out.

Tip: If it is too small or detailed to cut out, cut out a large outline and later color in the details.

6

Position your pieces on the base, moving them around for the best look.

7

Glue all the pieces to the base.

8

Cover the entire surface with glue, including the base.

9

Center the aluminum foil on top.

10

Start in the middle and gently press down on the foil to outline the images. Work outward and be gentle because the foil can rip.

Tip: Try using the eraser side of the pencil to gently press down alongside the edges.

11

Wrap and glue excess foil to the back of the base.

12

Color in with the permanent markers. Be gentle when pressing down with the markers, the foil is fragile and can rip.

Tip: Gold leaf was used to decorate illuminated manuscripts; use the yellow marker to give a similar appearance.

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