Perfectly Personal Word Art
Big Letter Mask Homework (Variation 5) – Photoshop Transcript
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Unlike the previous sections of this class, the homework for this section will be less involved. We've already thoroughly explored different variations of the big letter mask. So for the homework we're going to simply have fun creating a beautiful and vibrant card using the things we've already learned. Think of this homework assignment like good old fashioned practice. We're going to practice using our custom big letter mask to create a card that you can print and use for so many different things.

So here I am in Photoshop. And you'll need to open the artistic letter mask base file and create a copy of it and close the original file as I've done here. Then press the letter D to reset the color chips. In the layers panel, double click on the thumbnail for this type layer and type in a new word. We're going to use the word thanks in all caps and then click the checkmark to commit. Now get the horizontal type tool and in the tool options, adjust the size of your font until the word fits well within the bounds of the document. For this card. I'm using the size of 100 points because I don't want the word to take up the whole width of the front of the card. Now get the move tool and press control A in windows or command A on a Mac to select all. Then in the tool options, click on the align horizontal centers icon and the align vertical centers icon and then press control D in windows or command D on a Mac to de-select.

For this lesson we're going to use two of the paint files included in the downloads for this section of the class. I've already opened paint zero two and paint zero four so go to one of those paint files and then on the document while holding down the shift key, click and drag each paint file to the letter mask base copy document and do the other one.

Once you have moved both paint files to the letter mask base document in the layers panel, click and drag both of the paint layers below the type layer. Now we need to resize the paint layers so that they aren't so big. I recommend doing this one paint layer at a time so that you can size and position each one how you want. I'll resize the watercolor paint layer first and I'll do that by pressing control T in windows or command T on a Mac to get the transform options. And then while holding down the alt key in windows or the option key on a Mac, click and drag from a corner handle to reduce the size of the paint. And then once you're done, you can click the checkmark to commit. And now do the same thing for the paint splatter layer.

Now it's time to color the layers of our big letter mask. To do that, click on the foreground color chip to open the color picker and pick a shade of orange that coordinates with our card that we're going to be making. The exact hex number is F0911C and then click OK. In the layers panel, click on the type layer to activate it, and then in the layers panel, click on the create a new filler adjustment layer icon and choose solid color. Then click okay. Now in the menu bar, choose layer, create clipping mask.

Now press the letter X to switch the foreground color chip to white. And then in the layers panel and click on one of the paint layers to activate it. In the layers panel, click on the create a new fill or adjustment layer icon and choose solid color and then click okay. And then in the menu bar, choose layer, create clipping mask.

Then with the white solid color fill layer still active, press control J in windows or command J on a Mac to duplicate this layer. And in the layers panel, drag it above the other paint layer. And then in the menu bar, choose layer, create clipping mask. At this point, our paint is going to completely disappear into the background, so let's go ahead and in the layers panel, drag the white background layer to the trash.

Now we're going to add a gradient layer to the type, so in the layers panel, click on the type layer to activate it. Then in the layers panel, click on the add layer mask icon. Now double check that your foreground color chip is black. If it isn't, press the letter D to reset the color chips. And then if you need to press the letter X to make sure that the foreground color chip is black.

Now get the gradient tool and in the tool options click to open the gradient picker and choose the foreground to transparent gradient. If you don't see the foreground to transparent gradient, click to open the fly out menu and choose large list. And if you still don't see it, then click reset gradients and click okay to amend the list. Then in the tool options, click on the linear gradient icon. Set the mode to normal and the opacity to 100%. Check all of reverse, dither, and transparency.

Now on the document while holding down the shift key, click and drag from the top edge of the word thanks to just below the bottom edge of the word thanks, about there. And now our custom big letter mask is ready to be used on our card. To easily transfer a flat version of this mask to the card, do the following. First, you need to open the quick page card front file that you can locate in the downloads for this lesson. Then go back to the artistic letter mask copy document. Press control A in windows or command A on a Mac to select all. Then press shift control C in windows or shift command C on a Mac to copy all of the layers.

Then go back to the quick page card, front document and press control V in windows or command V on a Mac to paste. Now get the move tool and on the document click and drag the big letter mask layer so that it appears to be centered on the card. Saying thanks is great, but let's drive home the point by adding a subtitle to our card. So get the horizontal type tool and in the menu bar, choose window, character to open the character panel. Now we need to reset the character panel, so click to open the panel fly out menu and choose reset character and you can close the character panel.

Now in the tool options, select a script font of your choice. I'm using the font grand hotel, which is a free font. You can download from font squirrel.com. Then set the size to 48 points and set the alignment to center. Click to open the type tool color picker and choose a hex number. I'm using hex number E15065 and then click okay. On the document, click once and type a secondary phrase like you're the best or you rock or you're amazing. And then once you're done, click the checkmark to commit.

Now get the move tool and on the document click and drag the subtitle so that it's resting along the bottom of the word thanks, about there. Now at this point you can save the card front as a layered PSD file so that you can come back and change the subtitle or add a new custom big letter mask. I would also go back to the letter mask base copy file and save that as artistic letter mask variation five dot PSD. We went through all the work to make that so you might as well save it for future use.

Now that we've completed the card front together, I also want you to know that there is a coordinating quick page card inside that is also in the downloads. Here's what it looks like blank, and here's what it looks like with a text box added and rotated to match the rotation of the white notebook element. I really hope you had a great time with this homework project and that you'll be able to use this card often. Next up, we're going to look at using words to create negative space within a mask. I think you'll be surprised at how such a simple concept can have such a wonderful impact on your projects. This is Jenifer Juris with perfectly personal word art.