

December 1, 2006 - Press Release
2006 Pride of Place Competition Awards
Ceremony Honors America's Best Gilding
Artistry, Design and Decorative Finishing

Sepp Leaf Products Inc. announced its Pride of Place 2006 Competition prizewinners and unveiled the artwork of over one hundred dazzling entries, which will grace Sepp Leaf's showroom for the upcoming year. The awards ceremony was officiated by Peter Sepp, President of Sepp Leaf Products. Seventeen winners were presented with awards from several European goldbeaters, as well as other manufacturers including Rolco Labs and Kolner Coatings in the U.S., Liberon of Great Britain and Mixol of Germany. Invoking the event's immediate and long term missions, Sepp described his "genuine pleasure in gathering here to celebrate the artistic achievements of many accomplished artists. In doing so we hope Pride of Place will encourage and inspire new artisans as well."

Joining the festivities were Michael Kramer of the Gilder's Studio, Peter Miller of P.H. Miller Studios, current and past presidents of the Society of Gilders, as well as **Picture Framing Magazine** publisher Bruce Gherman and editor-in-chief Patrick Sarver. Also attending were jury chairman Clem Labine, founding editor of **Traditional Building** and **Period Homes** magazines, honorary chair Doug Wilson, host of TLC's **Trading Spaces** and **Moving Up**, and Jean-Yves Noblet, Director of Jean-Yves Noblet Prints. Sepp toasted the "incredibly talented and diverse artisans, whose growing participation ensures that this will be an annual event." The judging panel also included Scott Ageloff, Dean of the New York School of Interior Design; Ralph Esmerian, Director Emeritus of the American Museum of Folk Art; and Lily Kane, Education Director of the American Craft Council. The review process was held at The National Arts Club of New York.

Renowned textile designer Christopher Hyland accepted two awards on behalf of Scott Potter Design, for Gilded Decorative Art (Christopher Hyland Collection Grande Globe) and for Gilded Product Line (Japanese Silver Leaf Grande Footed Bowl). Applauding Scott Potter's "exquisite vision", Hyland noted the essential confluence of designer, artist and materials in creating aesthetic perfection. In the winner's circle, several historic properties were represented, including the John and Mable Ringling Museum's Asolo Theatre in Sarasota, Florida; New York City's Cathedral Church of St. John the



Sandra Spinnen of See Painting, winner of Coloring with Mixol with Peter Sepp and Jennifer Longworth of Sepp Leaf Products.



Doug Wilson presents the award for Interior Residential Gilding to Laura Bergman of Faux Forum.



Jury Chair Clem Labine (r) of Traditional Building Magazine with Bill Doviak of Rolco Labs.



Christopher Hyland accepts the award for Gilded Decorative Art on behalf of Scott Potter Design.

Divine, Congregation Rodeph Shalom, The Metropolitan Club and Minskoff Theatre; and the Washington Temple of the Church of Latter-Day Saints. The Gilding by Design winner, a residential patinated gilded ceiling created by Realm Designs of Warren, New Jersey, and the Residential Gilding winner, an elaborate, Moorish-style gilded room executed by Faux Forum of New York City, conceived with Peter Marino Architects, provided an infusion of striking and innovative uses of gold leaf.



Peter Sepp presents Sheila Perry of the North Bennet Street School with Pride of Place scholarship funds.

Accepting the award for Gilded Picture Frame for the Concerto Spanish Frame, Jim McCoy of Larson-Juhl was thrilled to accept this “very unique recognition” of Larson-Juhl’s comprehensive research and development in presenting their first line of traditionally water gilded artisan frames with 22kt gold leaf. Sepp noted that the traditionally crafted Concerto line brings Larson-Juhl to the most sophisticated level of gilding, and gives them leadership in today’s “Gilded Age”.



Melissa Ford Hart of Ernest Neuman Studios receives the Liberon Wood Finishing award from JoAnne Campisi-Setear of Sepp Leaf Products.

Accepting the award for Civic Gilding, Michelle Scalera, Chief Conservator of the Ringling Museum of Art described the collective feeling of the team for the Historic Asolo Theatre project. “We feel honored and frankly humbled”, professed Scalera, “in being chosen from over one hundred incredible entries”. Scalera also recognized the “critically important specially hand-dyed silver leaf, gold leaf and expedited orders” sent by Sepp Leaf in support of the project’s time frame. Sepp Leaf’s Dealer of the Year Award was presented to Josh Jacobstein of Rose Brand. Noting Rose Brand’s historical presence in New York City, Peter Sepp commended their “starring role” as a leading supplier to the theatrical and entertainment industries.



Michael Kramer accepts the award for Exterior Architectural Gilding.

Pride of Place presented \$4,000 to the North Bennet Street School in Boston, MA, to fund Workshop Program scholarships in gilding and woodworking. These funds were the result of both accumulated entry fees, and the waived entry fees of Society of Gilder members, as underwritten by Sepp Leaf. Accepting the funds on behalf of the school, Director of Development Sheila Perry described the breadth of full-time and workshop programs in traditional crafts available at the school, and recognized the importance direct scholarships have in providing education for new and mid-career students. Perry also projected that together, Sepp Leaf and North Bennet Street School would foster an “exciting level of inspiration and craftsmanship” into the future.

In concluding the ceremonies, Sepp noted this year Pride of Place has “exceeded our expectations” and announced, “next year’s competition will encourage more participation by including additional categories. The workmanship, creativity and design you see on these walls is over the top. So, start thinking about next year now. Congratulations to all the artists who participated in Pride of Place.”

For this year’s winning images, or for more information about Pride of Place 2007 please contact Jennifer Longworth at 212-683-2840, jenniferl@seppleaf.com.