

Press Release July 6, 2006



Sepp Leaf Products Announces

Jury Panel - 2006 Pride of Place Gallery Competition

The Pride of Place Gallery Competition was inaugurated in 2004 to celebrate the artistic achievements of tremendously creative and talented artisans and design professionals around the world. The dynamic Gallery showcases the diverse artistry of gilding, Venetian plaster and fine finishing, and is a center where architect, artisan and material convene. Our showroom and Gallery are open to the trade and are used to connect noteworthy contractors and design professionals throughout the year. This year, the Pride of Place Competition not only recognizes recent achievements in gilding, but looks to the future of gilding as well, by providing scholarships for new students of the craft at the North Bennet Street School in Boston. The 2006 Pride of Place Gallery Competition will accept entries through September 15, 2006. The Awards Ceremony will be held November 9, 2006 at our showroom in Manhattan.

The 2006 Pride of Place Gallery Competition is pleased to welcome a stellar jury. This year, Clem Labine, Founding Editor of **Traditional Building** and **Period Homes** magazines returns as chairman. Doug Wilson, designer/host for TLC's **Trading Spaces** and **Moving Up** television programs, returns as honorary chairman. Jurors include Scott Ageloff, Dean of the New York School of Interior Design, Ralph Esmerian, Director Emeritus of the American Folk Art Museum; Lily Kane, Director of Education at the American Craft Council, and Jean-Yves Noblet, Director Jean-Yves Noblet Prints, and board member of the PBS **Art:21 - Art in the 21st Century** television program.

Scott Ageloff is Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the New York School of Interior Design (founded 1916), New York's only private, not-for-profit college devoted entirely to interior design. While obtaining his Masters of Architecture from Yale University, he studied with architects Frank Gehry and Cesar Pelli. Prior to this he was a Fellow in the Luce Scholars Program and was a member of the Architects Group Forum in Seoul, Korea. Mr. Ageloff is a member of the American Society of Interior Designers, the American Institute of Architects, and served on the National Board of Directors of the Interior Design Educators Council. Since 1987, Mr. Ageloff has practiced as an architect and interior designer with his firm, Ageloff & Associates, listed in the Franklin Report as a top firm in the New York Metropolitan area. His work has been published in the **New York Times** and **New York Spaces**.

Ralph Esmerian is an energetic connoisseur of America's cultural landscape, known both as a collector and champion of American Folk Art, and as a fourth generation supplier of gemstones to jewelers including Cartier, Van Cleef & Arpels and Tiffany & Co. Mr. Esmerian is Chairman Emeritus of the Museum of American Folk Art in New York City, and his collections have been exhibited in numerous museums in the United States and Europe, most notably in **American Radiance: The Ralph Esmerian Gift to the American Folk Art Museum** in 2001. Mr. Esmerian is owner of Fred Leighton Ltd, Co-Founder and Curator of the National Jewelry Institute and Director and Co-Founder of Gemcore, a non-profit lab for research and education. His writings are included in several books, including **Daniel Brush: Gold Without Boundaries** (Abrams, 1998), **The Master Jewelers** (Thames and Hudson, 1990) and **American Jewelry: Glamour and Tradition** (Rizzoli, 1987).

Lily Kane is Education Director of the American Craft Council, where she is responsible for organizing exhibitions, workshops, seminars and conferences to promote the understanding and appreciation of contemporary American craft. She has written and lectured extensively on various topics relating to 20th century design, and is former gallery director of R 20th Century in New York City. The American Craft Council is a national, non-profit education organization founded in 1943. The Council is a vital connection between the public and contemporary artists working in clay, fiber, glass, metal, wood and other media. It promotes fine craft through its bi-monthly magazine **American Craft**, annual juried shows, educational programming, a resource library, and the Aileen Osborn Webb Awards named for the Council's founder.

Chairman **Clem Labine** is Founding Editor of **Traditional Building** magazine (for Commercial and Public Architecture) and **Period Homes** magazine (for Residential Architecture). The publications and their websites bring information to design and building professionals about distinctive products and services used in restoration, renovation and historically inspired new construction, reaching over a million industry professionals and preservation-minded consumers. A chemical engineer from Yale, Mr. Labine turned his focus to preservation with the painstaking restoration of his house in the Park Slope section of Brooklyn, which has served as a pilot plant for many how-to articles Labine has written over the years. Mr. Labine has received awards from The Preservation Leagues of New York State, The National Trust for Historic Preservation and The Municipal Art Society; as well as the Arthur Ross Award from Classical America and the Harley J. McKee Award from the Association For Preservation Technology.

Jean-Yves Noblet is founder of Jean-Yves Noblet Contemporary Prints, specializing in original limited edition prints, mixed-media works, and new collaborations with established and emerging contemporary artists. Mr. Noblet's company is an outgrowth of a distinguished three-decade career in the visual arts in France and the United States, which includes serving until recently as Director of Pace Prints in New York City. He has been instrumental in producing collaborations with some of the best-known artists of the 20th and 21st centuries including Donald Baechler, Helen Frankenthaler, Roy Lichtenstein, Kiki Smith and Kara Walker. One component of the company's mission is to develop direct financial and creative ways to support non-profit institutions in New York City. Mr. Noblet is also a Board Member of **Art:21 - Art in the Twenty-First Century**, an Emmy-nominated PBS television series focusing on contemporary visual art and artists in the United States.

Honorary Chairman **Doug Wilson** is one of the country's top authorities on faux finishes and decorative painting. His mastery of intricate wall treatments and decorative painting techniques has been showcased in some of the most notable homes and apartments in New York, and has caught the attention of renowned designers Jamie Drake, Albert Hadley and Alexa Hampton. Doug's unconventionally stylish and urbane designs are featured on three television shows: TLC's hit television series **Trading Spaces**, **America's Ugliest**, and the new **Moving Up**. In his debut book **Doug's Rooms** (Clarkson Potter, 2004), Doug provides accessible room design ideas, pictorial how-tos and decorating advice. Doug pens a regular design column for **InTouch Weekly**, is a frequent expert on NBC's **Today** show, has been featured in **House Beautiful**, **In Style Home**, **Elle Decor** and the **New York Times**, and also lends his time and talents to Ronald McDonald House.