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Learn
Traditional Water Gilding
in New York City!

Oct. 5th - 7th, 2016
10:30am - 4:30pm
Sepp Leaf Products
381 Park Avenue South

Register at:
gildingstudio.com

Charles Douglas Gilding Studio

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The Gilding Arts Newsletter

*...an educational resource
for Gold Leaf Gilding*

CHARLES DOUGLAS
GILDING STUDIO
Seattle, WA

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September 1, 2016

Just Added! October Gilding Workshops New York City

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New York

October 4, 2016

Sacred Gilding...Gilding the Buddah

A Study in Oil Gilding

*(Including a Special Presentation of
Gilding for the Holidays!)*

From the Early Egyptians to present day liturgical use, gilding has always had a special place in the Sacred. Come explore this meditative path with the gilding of a personal Buddah statue to take with you.

~

October 5-7, 2016

Traditional Water Gilding

The Popular 3-Day Study of this ancient method of gold leaf gilding. Includes all materials, a book of 23k gold leaf, and a special object to gild and take home.

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Create a Cracked-Gesso Water Gilded Panel in 23k
Gold Leaf

*Includes all materials, a book of 23k gold leaf,
your choice of a raw wood panel or frame
to gild and take home, and a field trip to the Seattle
Art Museum to view their Gilded Frame Collection.*

*Learn every step of the traditional water gilding
method of gold leafing with a special focus on an
aged, cracked appearance as seen on 13th-15thc
Florentine gilded panels.*

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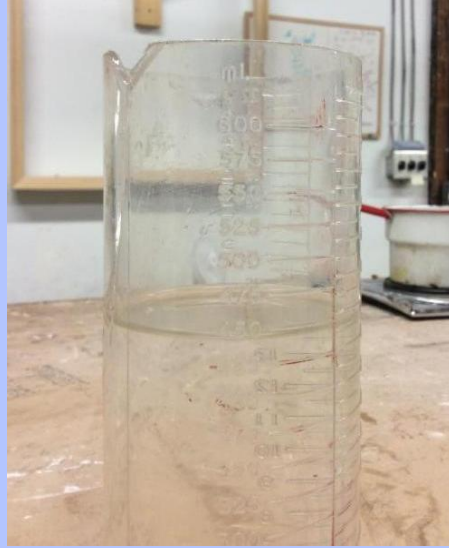
www.gildingstudio.com

(Gilding Kits now available Here!)

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Seeking the Meniscus...*Measurements used in Gilding*

Often students will ask during the Traditional Water Gilding class whether the measurement of materials should be by weight or volume when preparing rabbit skin glue size, gesso, and clay bole. I usually



preface my answer by first pointing out that I prefer the metric form of measuring as I find it more exacting. When I switched many years ago from the US table of measurements to metric I performed a simple test: I measured by eye what appeared to be an ounce by volume of dry rabbit skin glue and then weighed it on a metric balance scale for comparison.

Each time I performed the test the metric equivalent was different. That was convincing enough for me to make the switch to metric; I needed to match samples of gilded picture frame finishes as closely as possible and since there are so many things that can go wrong in gilding it's best to control what can be controlled and that would include the measurement and freshness of materials.

The question of whether to measure by volume or weight is a little more complicated. The equivalency of measuring materials by either of these two methods depends upon the material. Water may be measured either by weight or volume (1 ML of water

= 1 gram). So which is better, to measure water by volume in a Graduate or weigh it on a metric scale? To answer this let me illustrate that in the past when I chose to weigh dry materials such as rabbit skin glue and whiting on a metric scale I measured water by volume in a Graduate, keeping the beaker as steady and even as possible for accuracy. However, I inadvertently discovered one day that a specific amount of water that I measured by sight of volume did not equal the same when weighed on the metric scale.

The reason for the discrepancy is due to what is called the meniscus which is the curve in the upper surface of the water in the Graduate. A meniscus may be either convex or concave depending upon the liquid and the surface material of the object containing the water. Water and the use of a glass beaker or plastic Graduate will produce a concave meniscus as shown in this photo of colored water in a burette, the proper reading being 20 ML:



Courtesy of
Wikimedia

What this means in practice for gilders is that the proper measurement of water requires viewing the surface of the water through the measuring container straight on so that the meniscus can be seen; it is the bottom of this curve that determines the proper measurement. As an example, if you are seeking to measure 50 ML of water make sure that the bottom of the curve is at the 50 ML mark.

To discover how much difference there might be by virtually 'eyeballing' a certain amount of water in a Graduate I tested measuring by volume 50 ML of water without specifically looking for the meniscus

but still seeking a measurement that seemed fairly accurate. I then weighed this amount of water on a metric scale with a result of 41grams! When making small batches of rabbit skin glue size or bole mixtures this nearly 20% variance could prove quite drastic, partially because we run the risk of using a glue size that is stronger than we think.

What we can learn from this is that we need to seek the meniscus of water if choosing to measure by volume. Considering the chance for error, however, it is simpler and safer to weigh the water on a reliable metric scale.

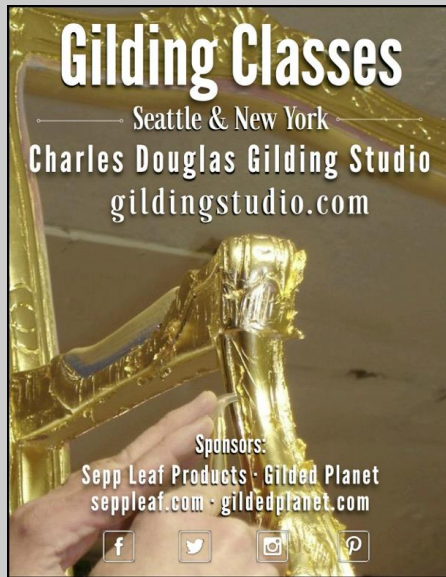
~ Charles Douglas

*~ "The truth is rarely pure and never simple."
Oscar Wilde, The Importance of Being Earnest,*

1895

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**2016 Gilding Workshop
Registration**



New York City

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Sacred Gilding...Gilding the Buddah

A Study in Oil Gilding

*(Including a Special Presentation of
Gilding for the Holidays!)*

October 4, 2016

*Class Fee: \$250
(\$225 with Member Discount)*

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Introduction to Traditional Water Gilding

October 5-7, 2016

*Class Fee: \$650
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Seattle

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**Gold Leaf Gilding on
Canvas, Paper, & Panels**

...a Study for Fine Artists

September 24, 2016

*Class Fee: \$250
(\$225 with Member Discount)*

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Traditional Water Gilding

...a Perspective of Florence

September 26-30, 2016

*Class Fee: \$1,100
(\$990 with Member Discount)*

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Glass Gilding

*Gilded Mirrors & the Basis of
Verre Églomisé*

October 15, 2016

*Class Fee: \$250
(\$225 with Member Discount)*

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12kt White Gold Leaf Watergilded
with a black casein wash applied
over a shellac topcoat

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Cancellation Policy

Full Refund up to 30 Days before Class Start Date, no refunds less than 30 Days before the first day of class. Voucher good for one year will be provided for make-up class when class space is available. Full Refund if class is cancelled by teacher.

All classes provide the use of studio tools and materials. For those who wish to own their own Gilding Kit please visit GildedPlanet.com for a student discount! Promo Code: GSclass2016

www.gildedplanet.com



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