



# The Gilding Arts Newsletter

...an educational resource  
for Gold Leaf Gilding

CHARLES DOUGLAS  
GILDING STUDIO  
Seattle, WA

February 8, 2020

## Quick Links



## Quick Links

[Workshop  
Registration Form \(for  
mail-in registration  
only\)](#)

[A Gilder's Journal  
\(Blog\)](#)

[Georgian Bay Art  
Conservation](#)

[Gilding Studio...on  
Twitter](#)

[Uffizi Gallery](#)

[Galleria  
dell'Accademia di  
Firenze](#)

[Frye Art Museum](#)

[Seattle Art Museum](#)

[Society of Gilders](#)

## Gilding Arts Newsletter Quiz! *And the Winner from the January Klimt Question is...*

Congratulations to Gilding Arts Newsletter member [Tatyana from Texas](#) for submitting the first correct answer to last issue's Klimt Quiz! Tatyana's beautiful artwork and photography can be seen here on [Instagram](#). The quiz question asked what materials were used to create some of the raised swirling design elements on Klimt's mural [Beethoven Frieze](#) and what other metal was used in the makeup of the gold leaf?



*Portrait of  
Adele Bloch-Bauer I*

As outlined in a paper by Alexandra Matzner for the [International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works](#) and based upon conservation treatment of this particular work by Klimt, his areas

[Metropolitan Museum  
of Art](#)

[The Fricke Collection](#)

[Palace of Versailles](#)

[Museo Thyssen-  
Bornemisza](#)

[Sepp Leaf Products](#)



[Gilded Planet](#)

[Join our list](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

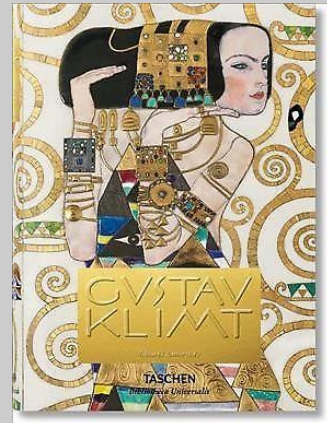
of *Relief* were comprised of Chalk and animal glue, the same material we often refer to as *Pastiglia*, or *Raised Gesso* (Chalk being a form of Calcium Carbonate). The gold leaf was shown to consist of 5% copper with the remainder gold.

During my recent visit in January to the [Neue Galerie](#) during the Winter Quarter Gilding Week I once

again studied Gustav Klimt's Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer I, which also exhibits raised gilded design elements that are likely the same or a similar approach to the pastiglia technique where gesso is slowly dripped or drawn in a heavy deposit to create a raised effect.

Normally during water gilding we apply a clay bole over the pastiglia and water gild these areas. Klimt is said to have used egg yolk as a mordant, at least on the Beethoven Frieze, a curious choice to me as gilders will often use glair, the white of the egg, while painters practicing egg tempera will use the yolk. Klimt did not leave much behind as far as information on his techniques were concerned and in the case of his mural work, Klimt sometimes relied on others for help in the creation of these commissions so we must rely on conservational analysis, history of practice, and theory when considering his use of materials for gilding.

When viewing such works as Klimt's where gold leaf was used on canvas or other works from the realms of Byzantine Icons, Florentine Tempera Gilded Panels, or the beautiful paintings with fine detailed gilded



January 2020 Prize to  
Tatyana!

detailing from the Peruvian Cuzco School, it should be noted that the presence of the gold leaf itself often still retains an element of long-lasting beauty and vibrancy, something that should be considered when combining gilding into other works of art such as oil or acrylic paintings, carefully weighing the choices and benefits of genuine gold leaf versus brass leaf (aka Composition Gold, Metal Leaf, Dutch Metal) as gold itself will never tarnish while copper, silver, and brass will.

Meanwhile, the Neue Galerie has such a fine collection of works by German and Austrian artists and books on Art Nouveau that another copy of the beautiful publication *Klimt (Gilles Néret)* has been acquired for the next upcoming Gilding Arts Newsletter Quiz in March!

Thank you to all those who sent in their answers. Although time doesn't always allow for direct responses, your engagement and thoughtful insight is always appreciated!

Happy gilding!

~ Charles

## **Gold Leaf Gilding Classes... a Summary of Educational Workshops**

**Gilding for Works of Art for Canvas, Paper, and Panels...*a Study for Fine Artists* ~**

Students explore the various methods of working with gold and silver leaf on canvas, paper, and panels both as a gilded ground and for embellishment of relief. Oil size is a focus of application during this hands-on class and is suitable for Fine Artists working in oil, acrylic, or water color mediums as well as artisans interested in learning the oil gilding method for frames, furniture, objects, or architectural detail. Other mordants are explored including gum ammoniac, glair, acrylic emulsion, and Kölner Instacoll. The practice of traditional water gilding and pastiglia is also demonstrated for further study.

During this class we discuss the various complexities associated with gilding and painting on flexible canvas as there are a number of important considerations that need to be accounted for (e.g. protecting the leaf, isolating coats, compatibility of materials, future conservation).

*(One day Intensives offered in most cities. An expanded two-day class currently available in Seattle only. The topics listed are covered in both the one and two-day classes; the expanded two-day provides longer supervised practice and guidance.)*

### **Introduction to Traditional Water Gilding ~**

This popular 3-Day Workshop takes students through each step of the ancient method of traditional water gilding from preparing and applying gilder's gesso and clay bole to laying and burnishing 23kt gold leaf. Small objects are provided for gilding in class which students may take home. The objective is to allow students to experience each step of the water gilding process within a three-day intensive period of study in a supportive and enjoyable environment. This class is designed so students can later transfer this new skill to any wooden object including frames, furniture, and

architectural detail. (*The 3-day class is offered in each city where classes are held and suitable for anyone seeking to learn this beautiful traditional Finish!*)

### **Traditional Water Gilding for Custom Picture Frames**

~ Designed for picture framing students, this *new* 5-Day Workshop takes students through each step of the ancient method of traditional water gilding from preparing and applying gesso and yellow and red clay bole to laying and burnishing 23kt gold leaf. Students will gild a 14 x 18 raw-wood frame from start to finish and will take their project home! (*A maximum of 3 students per class, currently offered in Seattle only*).

### **Introduction to Gold Leaf Restoration ~**

*New Class!* Learn to make gesso, gesso putty, prepare a simple, non-toxic two part mould, cast, repair broken decorative elements, and in-gild with 23kt gold leaf. This class is designed for those considering a career in gilding restoration or to enhance their current business offerings to their customers.

### **Glass Gilding: *an Introduction to Verre Églomisé* ~**

One-day and two-day Intensive Workshops that introduces students to the basics of verre églomisé & the artistry of gilded mirrors and special effects. The primary goal is to educate students in the basic fundamentals of gilding glass to achieve a proper balance between a brilliant appearance in the leaf and strong bond between leaf and glass. Students explore methods for abrading the gilding for an aged effect as well as engraving into the gold or silver leaf to create behind-the-glass designs. The two-day class allows additional time for other special effects such as candlessmoking, embedded India Ink, and the

introduction of multiple watercolors. (*One day Intensives offered in most cities. An expanded two-day class available in Seattle only.*)

### **Creating the Antique Dutch Black Finish ~**

Join us as we go through each step of the Antique Dutch Black Finish as inspired by 17thc frames from Holland. Included in this special four-day class is mordant gilding the Frame 'Lip' in genuine silver leaf. A rare opportunity to learn this beautiful Finish, *a must* for those interested in creating custom-finished picture frames! (*Seattle Only*)

~

## **Register Now for 2020 Winter, Spring, & Fall Gilding Workshops!**



### **Gold Leaf Gilding for Works of Art on Canvas, Paper, & Panels**

## ***...a Study for Fine Artists***

*Students explore the various methods of working with gold and silver leaf to create a gilded ground as an element of composition for painting. Discover the many uses of gilding within works of art through hands-on demos and exercises including the gilding of high-relief as embellishment, traditional water gilding, and the use of glair and clay bole as mordants for gilding. Students may bring a personal work of art to class to explore gilding or to discuss (optional).*

**Seattle, WA**

**[Charles Douglas Gilding Studio](#)**

**Feb. 15, 2020**

**\$250.00 (Newsletter Member)**

**(\$275.00 General Website Tuition)**

**[Buy Now](#)**

~

**Seattle, WA**

**[Charles Douglas Gilding Studio](#)**

**March 4-5, 2020**

**\$468.00 (Newsletter Member)**

**(\$520.00 General Website Tuition)**

**[Buy Now](#)**

~

**New York City**

**[Sepp Leaf Products](#)**

**April 14, 2020**

**\$250.00 (Newsletter Member)**

(\$275 General Website Tuition)

[Buy Now](#)

~

**Owen Sound, Ontario**

**[Georgian Bay Art Conservation](#)**

**May 2, 2020**

**\$250.00us (Newsletter Member)**

(\$275 General Website Tuition)

[Buy Now](#)

~

**New York City**

**[Isabel O'Neil Studio](#)**

**Oct. 10, 2020**

**\$256.00 (Newsletter Member)**

(\$285 General Website Tuition)

[Buy Now](#)

~

*Gold Leaf, Materials and Use of tools included.*

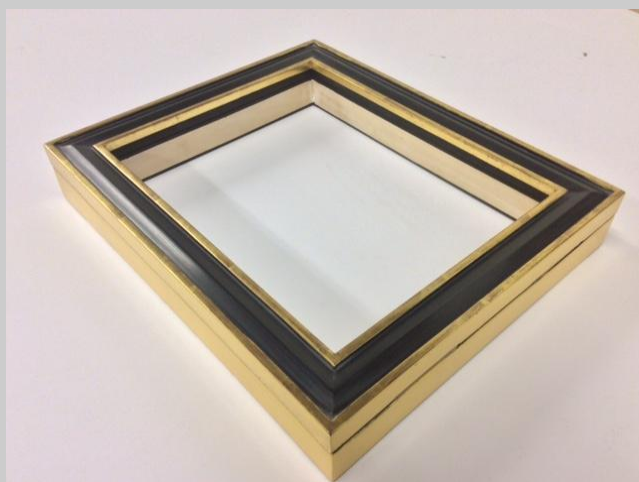
*Optional gilding kits available.*

**Traditional Water Gilding**

**2020**

***3-Day Intensives and the new  
5-Day Class for Picture Framing!***





~

## **Introduction to Traditional Water Gilding**

*Be guided through each of the steps of this beautiful, ancient method of gold leaf gilding for use on such objects as picture frames, furniture, and architectural detail. Students will learn to prepare rabbit skin glue, traditional gesso, and clay bole grounds followed by laying and burnishing genuine 22 kt gold leaf. Individual guidance is provided in developing the skills to handle gold leaf using the gilder's tools and brushes. Basic elements of toning will be demonstrated*

~

### **Seattle**

[Charles Douglas Gilding Studio](#)

**February 19-21, 2020**

**\$675 (Newsletter Member)**

**(\$750 General Website Tuition)**

[Buy Now](#)

~

## Seattle

[Charles Douglas Gilding Studio](#)

**February 27-29, 2020**

**\$675 (Newsletter Member)**

**(\$750 General Website Tuition)**

[\*\*Buy Now\*\*](#)

~

## Portland, Oregon

[MPF Conservation](#)

**May 29-31, 2020**

**\$675 (Newsletter Member)**

**(\$750 General Website Tuition)**

[\*\*Buy Now\*\*](#)

~

## New York City

[Sepp Leaf Products](#)

**October 7-9, 2020**

**\$675 (Newsletter Member)**

**(\$750 General Website Tuition)**

[\*\*Buy Now\*\*](#)

~

## **New 5-Day Seattle Class!**

### **Traditional Water Gilding for Picture Frames**

*This new 5-Day Workshop takes students through each step of the ancient method of traditional water gilding from gesso and clay bole to laying and burnishing 23kt gold leaf. It is designed for picture*

*framing students who will gild a frame from start to finish and will take their project home! (Frame may be purchased here or bring your own 14" x 18" raw wood frame!)*

## ***Seattle***

**[Charles Douglas Gilding Studio](#)**

**March 24-28, 2020**

**\$1,125 (Newsletter Member)**

(\$1,250 General Website Tuition)

**[Buy Now](#)**

**Sept. 8-12, 2020**

**\$1,125 (Newsletter Member)**

(\$1,250 General Website Tuition)

**[Buy Now](#)**

**14" x 18" Raw Wood Frame**

**\$125.00**

**[Buy Now](#)**

~

*Gilding Arts Newsletter Member Discount Applied*

*Gold Leaf, Materials and Use of tools included.*

*Optional gilding kits available.*

**Gold Leaf Restoration**

**Workshop**

**(New York, Seattle, Ontario, Portland,  
Oregon)**

**2020**

**New!**

## ***Introduction to Gold Leaf Restoration***



*This new three-day Workshop, Introduction to Gold Leaf Restoration introduces students to the essential methods and techniques of gold leaf restoration including the preparation and use of gesso putty for infilling, mould casting for the repair of broken or missing decorative elements and the basics of traditional water gilding, oil gilding, and toning.*

*Materials, gold leaf, and use of studio tools included. Recipe handouts for making old world gilder's gesso and clay bole!*

**Seattle**

**[Charles Douglas Gilding Studio](#)**

**March 19-21, 2020**

**\$675 (Newsletter Member)**

*(\$750 General Website Tuition)*

[Buy Now](#)

~

## **New York City**

*(Only NYC Class!)*

[Sepp Leaf Products](#)

**April 15-17, 2020**

**\$675 (Newsletter Member)**

(\$750 General Website Tuition)

[Buy Now](#)

~

## **Owen Sound, Ontario**

[Georgian Bay Art Conservation](#)

***Gold Leaf Restoration & Gilded Bevels***

**May 4-6, 2020**

**\$675us (Newsletter Member)**

(\$750 General Website Tuition)

[Buy Now](#)

~

## **Portland, Oregon**

[MPF Conservation](#)

**July 10-12, 2020**

**\$675 (Newsletter Member)**

(\$750 General Website Tuition)

[Buy Now](#)

~

*Gold Leaf, Materials and Use of tools included.*

*Optional gilding kits available.*

# **Glass Gilding/Verre Églomisé 2020**



## **Glass Gilding... An Introduction to Verre Églomisé**

~

*Learn the beautiful ancient art of reverse glass gilding and discover the steps involved in achieving a strong and brilliant bond between glass and leaf.*

*Students will learn to properly clean the glass, prepare gelatin size and glair, gild the glass with genuine white gold and be introduced to the concept of engraving the gilding in reverse before the final step of backpainting.*

**Seattle, WA**

**Charles Douglas Gilding Studio**

**March 6-7, 2020**

**(New 2-Day Class!)**

**\$468 (Newsletter Member)**  
**(\$520 General Website Tuition)**

[\*\*Buy Now\*\*](#)

~

**New York City**

*Isabel O'Neil Studio*

**April 18, 2020**

**\$256 (Newsletter Member)**  
**(\$285 General Website Tuition)**

[\*\*Buy Now\*\*](#)

~

**Seattle, WA**

*Charles Douglas Gilding Studio*

**April 24-25, 2020**

**\$468 (Newsletter Member)**  
**(\$520 General Website Tuition)**

[\*\*Buy Now\*\*](#)

~

**Owen Sound, Ontario**

*Georgian Bay Art Conservation*

**May 3, 2020**

**\$250us (Newsletter Member)**  
**(\$275 General Website Tuition)**

[\*\*Buy Now\*\*](#)

~

**New York City**

*Sepp Leaf Products*

**October 6, 2020**

**\$250 (Newsletter Member)  
(\$275 General Website Tuition)**

**Buy Now**

~

Gold Leaf, Materials and Use of tools included.  
Optional gilding kits available.

**Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada  
2020**

*Scroll Down to Register!*



**May 4-6, 2020  
Gold Leaf Restoration  
and  
Gilding Beveled Mats  
for Picture Framing**

~

**May 3, 2020  
Glass Gilding/Verre Eglomise**

~

**May 2, 2020**



**Gilding for Works of Art...**  
**a Study for Fine Artists**  
**(including the preparation of Gum Ammoniac,**  
**a Medieval Gum-Resin for Paper)**

*The new three-day Workshop, Gold Leaf Restoration and Gilding Beveled Mats introduces students to the essential methods and techniques of gold leaf restoration including the preparation and use of gesso putty for infilling, mould casting for the repair of broken or missing decorative elements and the basics of traditional water gilding, oil gilding, and toning.*

*Students will also learn to create simple and attractive gilded bevel mats for picture framing using the mordant gilding method using genuine gold, white gold, bronze, and aluminum leaf. A fun and informative three days not to be missed!*

*Materials, gold leaf, and use of studio tools included. Students will take home the project they gild in class with recipe handouts for making old world gilder's gesso and clay bole!.*

**Owen Sound, Ontario**  
**Georgian Bay Art Conservation**  
**Gold Leaf Restoration & Gilded Bevels**

**May 4-6, 2020**

**\$675us (Newsletter Member)**

(\$750 General Website Tuition)

[\*\*Buy Now\*\*](#)

~

**Owen Sound, Ontario**  
***Georgian Bay Art Conservation***  
***Glass Gilding:***  
***The Foundation of Verre Eglomise***  
**May 3, 2020**

**\$250us (Newsletter Member)**

(\$275 General Website Tuition)

[\*\*Buy Now\*\*](#)

~

**Owen Sound, Ontario**  
***Georgian Bay Art Conservation***  
***Gilding for Works of Art***  
***...a Study for Fine Artists***  
**May 2, 2020**

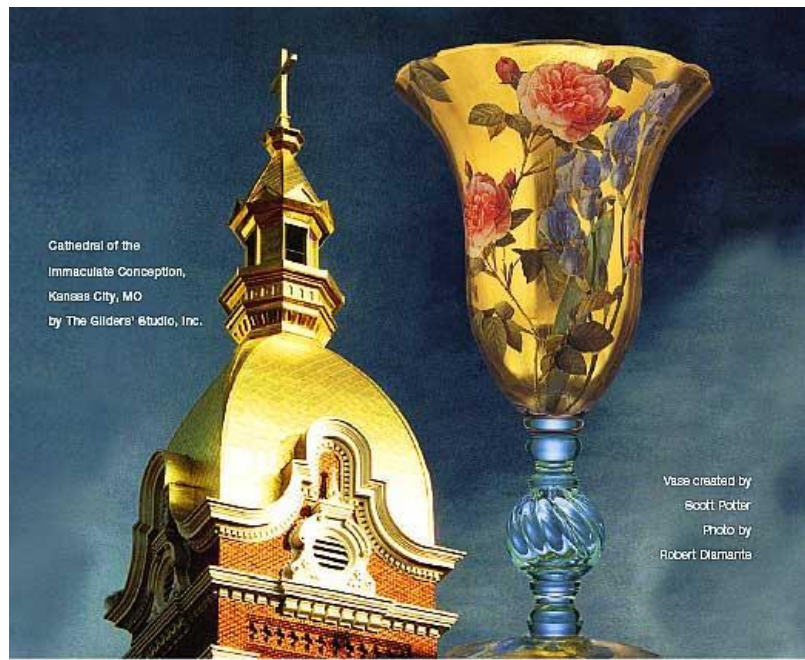
**\$250us (Newsletter Member)**

(\$275 General Website Tuition)

[\*\*Buy Now\*\*](#)

~

*Gold Leaf, Materials and Use of tools included.*  
*Optional gilding kits available.*



Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Kansas City, MO  
by The Gilders' Studio, Inc.

Vase created by Scott Potter  
Photo by Robert Diamante

THERE ARE NO SMALL IDEAS IN LEAF.  
GREAT WORKS IN GOLD LEAF BEGIN WITH **SeppLeaf**

ANY SIZE, ANY KARAT, ANY COLOR, CALL SEPP LEAF 800-971-7377 sales @ seppleaf.com

## Back Issues of *The Gilding Arts Newsletter* Available in an Online Archive

### *New Member? Missed an Issue?*

#### The [Gilding Arts Newsletter](#)

periodically publishes  
technical information  
concerning the various  
methods of gold leaf

gilding. Some of these topics are in series formats  
such as the series on Traditional Water Gilding.



All Newsletters are available online in an Archived

format. Simply go to the [www.gildingstudio.com](http://www.gildingstudio.com) website. The *Gilding Arts Newsletter* can be found on the left-hand side navigation bar. The ARCHIVE Link can be found at the top of the page.