

# The Gilding Arts Newsletter

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

## **Spring Greetings!**

Welcome to the 1st Issue of the New Year of The Gilding Arts Newsletter!

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## **Greetings from the Gilding Studio!**

Hello to all! It's been a little while since 2021 began and here we are in April already. A year has gone and we're all still collectively waiting for a return to some sense of normalcy to life but from what I see from all the students through the new Zoom! Online classes, we're still moving forward in our artistic interests and growth - always a good sign!

Meanwhile, there have been many changes on this gilding-end with a new mobile-friendly Newsletter format, a brand new Website (but still [gildingstudio.com](http://gildingstudio.com)), and a new studio in the Queen Anne area of Seattle. Plus all of the various gilding classes in the new Online Zoom format where close to 300 students from 18 different countries have taken part in studies of traditional water gilding, oil gilding, glass gilding, and restoration!

As we begin to test the waters for renewal in Live events and classes I am thrilled to be working in tandem with Whidbey Island Find Art Studios in presenting a one day Intensive in Water Gilding August 15 as a prelude to a weeklong Egg Tempera Workshop by the extraordinary artist **Fred Wessel.**

Later in the Fall I'll be slowly adding on very small, two student gilding classes in the new studio while also keeping a full schedule going for the Zoom! Online program. So...life goes on...

In the coming issues of the Gilding Arts Newsletter I'm pleased to be presenting a new column - Student Spotlight! There are so many wonderfully talented artists and gilders from all levels that I have the pleasure of meeting and working with through all of these classes that it will be a nice opportunity to share their work with you.

And with that I wish you all...

Peace, health, and Clarity,

Charles

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## **Winner of the Fall, 2020 Gilding Arts Newsletter Quiz!**

Congratulations to our winner of the Winter 2020 Gilding Arts Newsletter Quiz - Sylvia Thompson Dias from New Orleans, Louisiana! Sylvia of Sylvia T Designs has been in business for 25 years as a Decorative Artist in the New Orleans area and who is excited to now be adding Verre Églomisé to her list of services! Her website address is **[www.sylviatdesigns.com](http://www.sylviatdesigns.com)**.

Our Quiz Question asked: *What form of gelatin was formerly used in the art of Glass Gilding/Églomisé before the current use of Diamond Sheets?*  
The correct answer: Pharmaceutical Capsules!

A number of correct answers came through - thank you to All who responded! - but as the first correct answer wins the giveaway prize, I am thrilled to be able to send the beautiful book of Monographs (Gilles Néret), a compilation of some of the most notable works of Gustav Klimt to our talented member Sylvia! Thank you to all who could participate. More quizzes will be on the way for Spring, Summer, and Fall, so watch and try again! ~

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## **A Word about Mordants**

Mordant Gilding is a term used in gilding that relates to the use of an adhesive medium and considered an alternative method to Traditional Water Gilding. There are various mordants that we can choose from when gilding although Oil Size and Water Based Adhesive (a white acrylic emulsion such as the Sepp Leaf Workshop brand) are the two most popular in contemporary gilding alongside Instacoll and Miniatum by Kölner...

[Read More...](#)

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## **I've Got a Question!...notes from our members**

**Q.** Ruth from California asks...*If you don't want a rubbed-finish, in fact you don't want any overlaps at all: what would you do differently?*

**A.** Good question! This regards Traditional Water Gilding and it is often the case that the burnishing with the agate stone tends to blend the gold leaf into itself. Overlaps in this case are fairly minimal although likely not completely. But this is the nature of traditional water gilding. You may wish to leave out any small amounts of rabbit skin glue in the gilding water and try not to lay the water over the edges of the corresponding leaf while gilding. This approach may tend to offer a cleaner look.

Another question that relates to this is when the leaf is rubbed, or abraded, gently wearing through the gold leaf while revealing the underlying clay bole. However, as the squares of gold leaf overlap each other in the gilding process the overlaps show because in the areas that create the laps there are two layers of gold which do not rub through as easily as the single layers of leaf between the overlaps. The resulting look resembles the appearance of bamboo and is one of the defining characteristics of traditional water gilding.

The best approach in this case is to minimize the appearance of the overlaps as it's practically impossible to create a rub without seeing the overlaps to some degree but you can minimize them by giving the gilding only a 'light' rub and try to rub a little lighter over the overlaps while emphasizing the rub between the overlaps. This takes great care as you don't want the look to be contrived. You may even be able to carefully rub the overlaps themselves to a lesser degree but take great care as the gilding could be ruined very quickly.

The two main keys here is to only give the surface a light rub and if this is for a customer, let them know that you can minimize the overlaps to put them into the background but they will likely still be seen to some degree.

Thanks for asking! ~

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**Gilding for Works of Art...a Study for  
Fine Artists**

**Zoom! Online:**

**Every Saturday April 10 - May 1,  
2021**

**1:00pm - 2:30pm PST (4:00pm -  
5:30pm EST; Adjust for International  
Time Zones)**

Students explore the various methods of working with gold and silver leaf on canvas, paper, and panels for both background and embellishment. Learn to lay a genuine 23k gold leaf ground for painting.

**Book a Class**  
**(\$145.00, all 4 Weeks)**

**Roman Gilding...a Study in Bronze Powder and other Gilded Powder Techniques**

**Zoom! Online:**

**Weekly, April 30 - June 17, 2021**

**1:00pm - 2:30pm PST (4:00pm - 5:30pm EST; Adjust for International Time Zones)**

Roman Gilding is a method of applying a finely ground Bronze Powder to a prepared surface in a water based method embedded in rabbit skin glue as a binder. This is one of several methods of working with bronze powders for decorative finishes often used in the early 20th c for picture frames.

**Book a Class  
(\$290.00, all 8 Weeks)**

**Gold Leaf Restoration**

**Zoom! Online:**

**Every Saturday May 8 - June 26, 2021**

**1:00pm - 2:30pm PST (4:00pm - 5:30pm EST; Adjust for International Time Zones)**

Learn to make traditional gilder's gesso, gesso putty, prepare a simple, non-toxic two part mould, cast, repair broken decorative elements, and in-gild with

23kt gold leaf. Emphasis is on restoring water gilded frames, furniture, and gilded objects.

**Book a Class**  
**(\$290.00, all 8 Weeks)**

**The Gilding Arts Collective**  
**Zoom! Online:**  
**Tuesday, May 11, 2021**

**1:00pm - 2:30pm PST (4:00pm - 5:30pm EST; Adjust for International Time Zones)**

Finding that the more you study gilding the more questions that you have? Or maybe you simply wish to have a group of like-minded people to talk about gilding with in a friendly, supportive online environment? This may be your answer!.....

**Book a Class**  
**(\$35.00, Single May Session)**

**Sacred Gilding...Gilding a Stone  
Buddha**

**Zoom! Online:**

**Every Wednesday, May 19 - June 2,  
2021**

**1:00pm - 2:30pm PST (4:00pm -  
5:30pm EST; Adjust for International  
Time Zones)**

Sacred Gilding...Gilding the  
Buddha...in 23kt Gold Leaf, Toned in  
Raw Umber. This version of this popular  
Sacred Gilding series takes students on a  
journey back in time in the ancient  
practice of gold leaf gilding of a cast  
stone Buddha.

**Book a Class  
(\$110.00, all 3 Weeks)**

**Traditional Water Gilding**

**Zoom! Online:**

**Every Friday, June 4 - July 23, 2021**

**1:00pm - 2:30pm PST (4:00pm -  
5:30pm EST; Adjust for International  
Time Zones)**

This popular Workshop takes the student  
on a journey through each step of the  
ancient traditional water gilding method,  
from gesso and clay bole to laying and  
burnishing genuine 23k gold leaf.

**Book a Class**  
**(\$290.00, all 8 Weeks)**

**Glass Gilding...an Introduction to  
Verre Églomisé...and other Gilded  
Glass Techniques**

**Zoom! Online:**

**Every Saturday, July 3 - August 7,  
2021**

**1:00pm - 2:30pm PST (4:00pm -  
5:30pm EST; Adjust for International  
Time Zones)**

This Summer, 2021 brings a special 6 week Intensive Online Gilding Course that introduces students to the art of verre églomisé with a focus on achieving a proper balance between brilliancy and bonding between the gold and silver leaf and the glass. Explore the beautiful artistry of gilded mirrors and special effects. Learn to gild with precious 23k gold and 6k white gold leaf, etch designs into gilded glass, apply gesso and candle smoke effects, and abrade white gold for an aged art-glass appearance.

**Book a Class**  
**(\$225.00, all 6 Weeks)**

**Antique Dutch Black Finish with an  
Oil Gilded Caplain Lip**

**Zoom! Online:**

**Every Friday, Sept. 10 - Oct. 29, 2021**

**1:00pm - 2:30pm PST (4:00pm -  
5:30pm EST; Adjust for International  
Time Zones)**

Join us as we go through each step of the Antique Dutch Black Finish as inspired by 17thc frames from Holland. Before we're finished we'll oil gild the frame Lip in genuine Caplain Leaf, an amalgam of gold, palladium, and silver! A rare opportunity to learn this beautiful finish for picture frames!

**Book a Class  
(\$290.00, all 8 Weeks)**

**An Introduction to the Art of Book  
Edge Gilding**

**Zoom! Online:**

**Every Wednesday, Oct. 6 - 27, 2021**

**1:00pm - 2:30pm PST (4:00pm -  
5:30pm EST; Adjust for International  
Time Zones)**

Join us for this very special month long Zoom! Online series on Book Edge Gilding, the art of applying gold leaf to the paper edges of books. Designed for

the beginner, students will learn to prepare and seal the paper edge, apply a clay bole ground, prepare an egg white size known as glair, and gild and burnish genuine 23k gold leaf.

**Book a Class**  
**(\$145.00, all 4 Weeks)**

## **Traditional Water Gilding**

**In-Person Studio Class at Whidbey Island Fine Art Studio. A Special 1-Day Intensive for Panels as a Prelude to a weeklong Class by Friend and Colleague Fred Wessel!**

**Sunday, August 15, 2021**

A very special engagement August 15, 2021 at the beautiful Whidbey Island Fine Art Studio in Langley, WA. Students will explore the various steps of the ancient Traditional Water Gilding method as used for panel painting including how to make gesso and clay bole, how to lay and burnish genuine 23kt gold leaf, and how to achieve those mysterious decorative lines and punchwork in the gilded surface known as granito.

**Book a Class**  
**(\$285.00 plus \$20/Materials fee)**  
**1 Day in-Person Class!**

A Special *Thank You* to Sepp Leaf Products, Inc., Sponsor of the Gilding Arts Newsletter. Helping to further the Educational Resources for Our International Community!

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**Contact the Gilding Studio**