

## Welcome to the Summer Issue of *The Gilding Arts Newsletter!*

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### Greetings from the Gilding Studio...

The days are beginning to warm and life is *slowly* coming back. It may take some time but enough so that we have now set an in-person gilding class schedule for a return to New York in January, 2022! Together with our Host **Sepp Leaf Products** we're excited to get back to work in the classroom! Class size is limited to 8 students per class and the days seem to be flying by so consider booking early if you can make it. (For those already registered your places are secured for the NY classes! Next up is Owen Sound in Ontario where we still await the opening of the Border. Update coming soon.).

For those in need of a gilding kit there are specific kits for all of the proper tools you'll need according to the class you're interested in, made available through **[gildedplanet.com](http://gildedplanet.com)** (the links are in the materials lists for your class).

Meanwhile...it's been a busy 8 months of Zoom classes with studies from water gilding to Bronze Powders with more intriguing methods of gilding to share online including Pastiglia and an Introduction to Bookedge Gilding! Also, a new 3-Day Masterclass is coming this July on the use of Garlic Juice as an ancient Gilding Mordant for glass and other objects and in 2022 The Art of Kintsugi for the repair of ceramics, a centuries-old technique from Japan based on the use of Urushi lacquer and gold powder.

It's been a trying year and a half for many but I hope you are all well. Thankfully our art has kept us connected and moving forward with new discoveries to explore and share.

So...enjoy this Summer Issue, remember to take part in the Klimt Quiz...  
and see you in class!

Peace, health, and Clarity,

Charles

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## **Recommended Reading...**

Kintsugi...*The art of repairing with gold*

~ Chiara Lorenzetti

This short but eloquent book is a wonderful introduction to the concept of wabi-sabi and the art of repairing ceramics with Urushi lacquer and gold powder, the Japanese art known as Kintsugi. The author briefly takes us through some of the history of Japanese thought, Cha-no-yu, the Japanese Tea Ceremony and the influence of Zen Buddhism, its roots dating back to what many believe to be the 15th c during the time of Ashikaga Yoshimasa (1436-1490), the 8th Japanese Shogun.

As an artform, Kintsugi requires patience on a number of levels including the proper drying of the urushi lacquer in a humid environment, assisted by the creation of a Muro, a drying box made humid to place the object for appropriate drying, a process that may take several weeks.

Ms. Lorenzetti walks us through the steps involved, the materials needed, along with a meditative approach to the art with the poetry of her writing. A good first book for those interested in further study of this art and philosophy of allowing the damaged and broken to find a new sense of beauty and belonging. ~

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## Summer Issue Klimt Quiz (*and Giveaway!*)...

Gustav Klimt (1862-1918), Austrian painter, Symbolist, and one-time leading member of the Vienna Secession Movement played an important role in the art world with his incorporation of gilding in many of his most known works of art. His Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer I hangs in the **Neue Galerie** in New York where a number of his paintings can be viewed during the Austrian Masterworks Exhibit June 10 - September 5, 2021.

***Question:*** *Klimt painted his masterful Beethoven Frieze in 1902 for the 14th Vienna Secession Exhibition. Among the various materials he used was gold leaf containing 5% copper, egg yolk as a mordant for gilding the chalk-based relief, and casein. What wall-painting technique did he use?*

The winner of this Issue's Klimt Quiz will receive a free Guest Pass for the Zoom! Online **Gilding Arts Collective** meeting, July 6, 2021 (1pm-2:30pm PST). Topics of discussion will focus on Kintsugi and Gold Leaf Restoration.

To win, be the first to send the correct answer by email to **charles.studio@usa.net**. Make sure your name and preferred email address is included!.

Thank you to all who participate and although time doesn't allow me to contact all the entrants individually your participation is always appreciated!

~ Charles

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

**Q.** A writer from Thailand asks... "*Why do we not traditionally water gild on a metal surface?*"

**A.** Technically we actually *can* water gild on metal although the issue is really how long the gilding will last. Water gilding is best suited for a porous surface to allow the underlying gesso to bond properly and to withstand the pressure of burnishing and therefore wood has always been the preferred surface. However, plaster, a form of gypsum can also be water gilded successfully along with hydrocal, a plaster-like material sometimes used in gilding restoration.

People do seem to like to experiment though and there is even historical evidence of Early Egyptians water gilding stone although the remaining gilding has not lasted as long as gilded wood artifacts. There is also historical precedence during the 18th c of gessoing glass incorporated with églomisé; rabbit skin glue, the binder often used in traditional gesso bonds well to glass (I have done this and found the gesso on the reverse of glass provides a beautiful white tone when seen from the front of the glass).

Typically, though, gilded wood has shown the ability to last thousands of years under the right conditions such as the gilded middle coffin of Tutankhamun dating back about 3,300 years ago.

If you wish to try gilding metal you may consider applying a fabric such as a thin linen to the surface during the initial *sizing* stage with rabbit skin glue, allowing it to dry before gessoing.

For further reading on the gilding of metal I recommend the book **Gilded Metals...History, Technology, and Conservation**, edited by Terry Drayman-Weisser (*Archetype Publications; The American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, 2000*), a rare find and fascinating book. ~

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**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)**

**(Online) Pastiglia: The Art of Gilded Raised Gesso**  
**Zoom!**  
**Every Wednesday, June 23 - Aug. 11, 2021**

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

Pastiglia is an ancient aspect of the art of Traditional Water Gilding. Its raised characteristic has been used for centuries in manuscript illumination as well as by contemporary calligraphers. It has also been used as Relief ornamentation for frames dating back to the Italian Renaissance and

discussed in Cennini's 15th c Treatise  
Il Libro Dell'Arte...

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

**(Online) The Gilding Arts Collective  
Zoom!**

**Tuesday, July 6, 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!.....*July Topics:*  
*Kintsugi and Gold Leaf Restoration*

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

**(In-Person, Seattle) Glass  
Gilding...an Introduction to Verre  
Églomisé**

**Saturday, July 10, 2021**

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

This Summer, 2021 brings the first In-Person Studio Glass Gilding Class since 2020! This one-day Intensive 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 glass and mirrors.

**Book a Class (\$250.00)**

**(Online) Gilding with Garlic...a  
Medieval Approach  
Saturdays, July 24 - Aug. 7, 2021**

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

Gilders throughout history have often depended upon plant gums and resins for use as binders in gilding including gum ammoniac, gum arabic, and garlic juice. They can be seen in manuscript illumination and sacred objects. Join us as we venture into the medieval world of gilding with garlic where we'll crush these aromatic bulbs with a mortar and pestle, mix the juice with raw gum ammoniac from Northern Africa, and gild with genuine 24kt gold leaf on wood, glass, panels, and canvas.

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

**(Online) Gilding for Works of Art...a Study for Fine Artists  
Zoom!:**

**Every Saturday July 29-Aug 19,  
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)**

**(In-Person, Seattle) Gilding for  
Works of Art...a Study for Fine  
Artists**

***Two Classes! Aug 21 or Sept 22, 2021***

**11:00 am - 5:00 pm**

*In-Person Seattle Class!* 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 (\$250.00)**



**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)**

**(Online) Gilding for the Holidays!  
November 6, 2021**

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

Ever wish you could add a touch of gold to your holiday festivities? Now's your chance as we bring the once-a-year Seattle gilding class Gilding for the Holidays! to Zoo Online! Learn to add a bit of gilding to your favorite delicacies, from Viennese Sachertorte to Chocolates, Champagne, and Perrier!

**Book a Class (\$35.00)**

**(In-Person, New York, Sepp Leaf)  
Gilding for Works of Art...a Study  
for Fine Artists  
January 25, 2022**

**10:30 am - 4:30 pm**

This popular gilding class for Fine Artists and other Artisans returns to New York! 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 (\$275.00)**

**(In-Person, New York, Sepp Leaf)  
Gold Leaf Restoration  
January 26-28, 2021**

**10:30am - 4:30pm**

Gilding Returns to New York for 3 days of Gold Leaf Restoration! 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.

**Book a Class (\$750.00)**

**(In-Person, New York, Isabel O'Neil Studio) Glass Gilding...an  
Introduction to Verre Églomisé  
Saturday, January 29, 2022!**

**10:30am - 5:00pm PST**

Coming January 29, 2022 we return to the beautiful Isabel O'Neil Studio on the Upper Eastside in New York City! This one-day Intensive 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 glass and mirrors.

**Book a Class (\$285.00)**

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**Charles Douglas Gilding Studio**

2120 1st Avenue N. Suite #42  
Seattle, WA 98109  
+1 206-795-8376