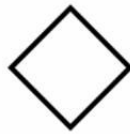


The Gilding Arts Newsletter

...an educational resource for Gold Leaf Gilding



CHARLES DOUGLAS GILDING STUDIO



Welcome to the 2021 Winter Issue of *The Gilding Arts Newsletter!*

Greetings from the Gilding Studio...

Thanksgiving around the corner...seems like a fast year, but a full one. Progress in many ways with the border now finally open with our friends to the north and despite certain collective difficulties we keep moving forward which in this gildingworld means much shared art and passionate pursuits!

2021 has been filled with much Online Zooming with classes exploring methods and techniques for Fine artists and gilders on many levels. And many new friends made along the way.

2022 is looking equally adventuresome with the return to New York to pick up from two years ago with Workshops in Gold Leaf Restoration, Glass Gilding, and Gilding for Works of Art. There are also plans underway for

more Live studio sessions in Kalamazoo, Coupeville on beautiful Whidbey Island, and new dates for Ontario (details coming!).

Online education has proven itself as an effective path to bring us together in ways unexpected with skills growing and ancient knowledge shared with well over 400 students just this past year spanning more than 20 countries...from across the US to Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Singapore, Lithuania, Brazil, and many other wonderful places of which I could visit each one! And so we'll continue with the core classes of water and mordant classes and ventures into studies of ancient resins, regilding of frames, and Kintsugi!

As a quick update...Many of the classes have been selling out so the max number of students has been extended from 8 to 10 and for those looking for the next Pastiglia class the new Spring Zoom starts April 1 (see below). Plus - for those interested in the tech side of things I'm excited to soon be upgrading to the top of the line Ipad Pro 11" which sports a 12 megapixel camera (up from 7 mp!). So that should be in play by December to help see the gold - and everyone's smiling faces - even better :).

Thank you to all for joining in on this collective adventure. Have a joyful season and see you in class!

Peace, health, and Clarity,

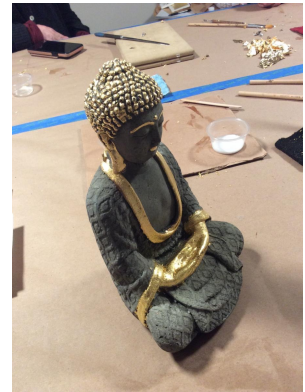
Charles



Propolis: *An Ancient Mordant?*



Gilding mordants, a term for adhesives used to bond gold leaf or other precious or non-precious metal leaf to a surface for decorative or sacred purposes, are wide and varied. There are water-based and solvent-based mordants, from the ancient use of garlic juice (ilinicopia), gum ammoniac, and fig juice to glair, oil size and contemporary acrylic mediums.



From my ongoing research into ancient gilding materials and techniques one other possible mordant appeared: Propolis, a resinous material from the honeybee. It's made by the bee as a part of the beehive to seal cracks, provide protection from the environment, and keep out other insects or reptile invaders.

This natural, waxy substance is also thought to contain medicinal properties and can often be found in tincture form in herbal stores for numerous remedies.

Though not widely regarded as a mordant for gilding I have discovered in an intriguing paper by Catherine Higgitt from the National Gallery in London of its possible use for gilding in three 15th c painted panels (*spalliere*) which during conservation study showed “an unusual thick, yellowish, unpigmented mordant” used in areas of mordant gilding in each of the panels.

Examinations by EDX analysis, FTIR microscopy, and GC-MS analysis helped lead to the theory that the mordant may be Propolis, widely available to artists at the time. The findings are striking though

inconclusive.

Propolis, a resin soluble in alcohol, is relatively easy to find and often sold by certain beekeepers. I've procured two versions of this sweet and pungent sticky material, one in its raw form that looks like broken pieces from a honeycomb and another version that looks like its been melted into a flat patty.

Covering small pieces of each form of Propolis I was able to obtain a workable tincture that allowed me to apply the dissolved mixture to a stone-like sculpture Buddha and gild the Headpiece (Una) of the Buddha successfully, resembling other sections gilded with garlic.

~Charles Douglas

For Further Reading... go to [Propolis/Higgitt](#) to read the Paper by Catherine Higgitt, a wonderful contribution to gilding research.

Interested in exploring the use of Propolis for gilding? Sign up for the Online Zoom class: [Gilding with Garlic...and other Ancient Mordants \(a Medieval Approach\)](#) January 7-21, 2022 (1pm-2:30pm PST; 4pm-5:30pm EST) Register at www.gildingstudio.com.



(Online) Gilding for Works of Art...a Study for Fine Artists
Weekly, Nov. 12 - Dec. 5, 2021

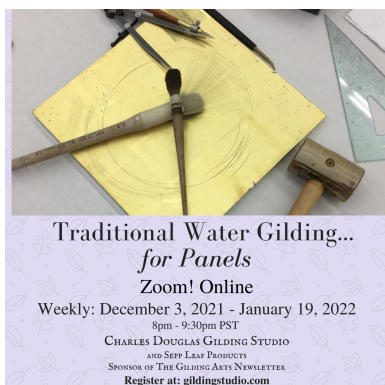
1:00pm - 2:30pm PST (4:00pm - 5:30pm EST; Adjust for Local Time Zone)
(Note: Every Online Zoom Class is Recorded so no worries if you miss a class!)

Class Limit: 10 Students Max

2 Spots left! Catch up with the recent recording and join us!

Students explore the various methods of working with 23k gold and other metal leafs on canvas, paper, and panels as a gold ground and embellishment. Learn to lay genuine gold leaf to incorporate into your paintings. Discover the process of applying isolating and topcoats for protection of the gilding and to guard against oxidization of tarnishable leafs such as brass and copper.

Book a Class (\$145.00, includes all 4 Sessions)



**Traditional Water Gilding for Panels
Zoom! Online:**

New Date Added!

**Weekly, Dec. 3, 2021 - January 19, 2022
8:00pm - 9:30pm PST (11:00pm -
12:30am EST; Adjust for Local Time
Zone)**

**Book a Class (\$295
Includes all 8 Sessions)
Dec. 3-Jan 19**



**Feb. 5 - Mar. 26, 2022
Class Limit: **2 Spots Left!**
10 Students Max**

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

This Workshop takes the student on a journey through each step of the ancient traditional water gilding method specifically for panels from the laying and gluing of linen, and preparing and applying gesso and clay bole to laying and burnishing genuine

Book a Class (\$295

Includes all 8 Sessions)
Feb. 5-March 26, 2022

24k gold leaf and an intriguing introduction to granito, the technique of punchwork and incision for decorative embellishment.



(Online) *Gilding for the Holidays!*
December 11, 2021

4:30pm - 6:00pm PST (7:30pm - 9:00pm EST; Adjust for Local Time Zone)

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 Sachatorte to Chocolates, Champagne, and Perrier!

Book a Class (\$35.00)



(Online) Gilding with Garlic and other Ancient Mordants
Every Friday, January 7-21, 2022

1:00pm - 2:30pm PST (4:00pm - 5:30pm EST; Adjust for Local Time Zone)

Class Limit: 10 Students Max

Gilders throughout history have often depended upon plant gums and resins for use as binders in gilding including gum

ammoniac, glair, gum arabic, propolis, and garlic juice (Ilinocopia). 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 Canvas, Wood, Glass, and Stone.

Book a Class (\$120.00, Includes all 3 Sessions)



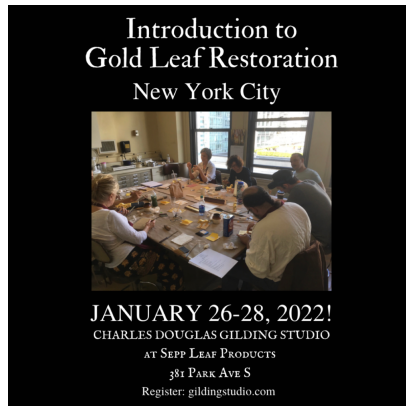
(In-Person, New York, Sepp Leaf) Gilding for Works of Art...a Study for Fine Artists January 25, 2022

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

Class Limit: 8 Student Max

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. (Materials and use of tools included)

Book a Class (\$275.00)



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

10:30am - 4:30pm

Class Limit: 8 Student Max

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. (Materials and use of tools included)

[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

Class Limit: 12 Student Max

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. (Materials and use of tools included)

Book a Class (\$285.00)



(Online) Glass Gilding: An Introduction to Verre Églomisé

Every Wed., Feb. 2 - Mar. 23, 2022

1:00pm - 2:30pm PST (4:00pm - 5:30pm EST; Adjust for Local Time Zone)

Class Limit: 10 Students Max

Learn to gild with precious 23k gold and 6k white gold leaf, choose the appropriate oil paint for 'backing up', and etch designs into gilded glass, an historical approach to verre églomisé.

Book a Class (\$295, Includes all 8 Sessions)



**The Art of Gilded Raised Gesso
Pastiglia**

Every Friday ~ April 1 - May 20, 2022

Zoom! Online (1 pm - 2:30 pm PST)

CHARLES DOUGLAS GILDING STUDIO

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THE GILDING ARTS NEWSLETTER

Register at gildingstudio.com

(Online) Pastiglia...The Art of Raised Gesso

Weekly, Feb. 4 - Mar. 25, 2022 (*Sold Out!*)

Just Added!

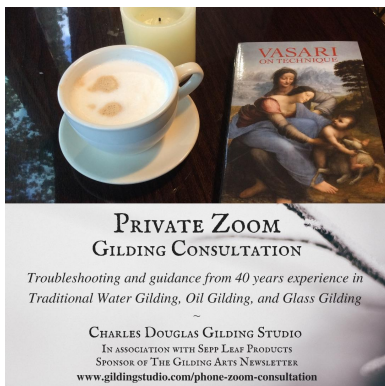
Weekly, April 1 - May 20, 2022

1:00pm - 2:30pm PST (4:00pm - 5:30pm EST; Adjust for Local Time Zone)

Class Limit: 10 Students Max

Students will be guided through the process of gilding a Pastiglia Relief on Canvas and Picture Frame moulding including preparing the surface, making rabbit skin glue size and gesso, drawing the raised gesso design, applying clay bole, gilding and burnishing in 23k gold leaf, and learning to adhere gold leaf through diaphragmatic breath.

Book a Class (\$295.00, Includes All 8 Sessions)

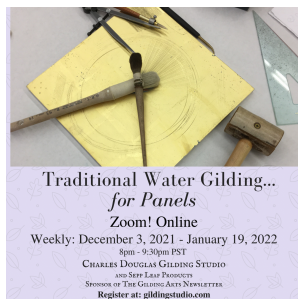


Private Gilding Consultation Zoom! Online

Have a question on Gold Leaf Gilding? Assistance can be just a phone call away! Or if you prefer, a private Online Zoom Consultation. Whether you're a student who is just learning the art of gilding or a project manager troubleshooting a large-scale gilding project, talking through your questions can be a cost effective approach for problem-solving.

Book a Consultation (1 Hour to 5 Hour Blocks)

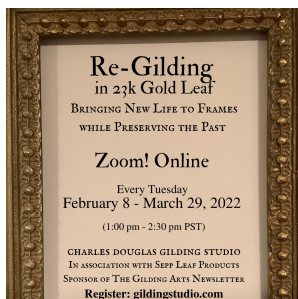
**More Gilding Classes Coming in 2022!
Registration Now Open...
Browse the Gildingstudio Website to Reserve your Spot**



Book a Class: Traditional Water Gilding for Panels! Dec. 3-Jan. 19 Eve Class



Book a Class: Water Gilding Palladium Leaf over Crackle Gesso Dec. 7-21



Book a Class: Re-Gilding Frames in 23k Feb. 8-March 29, 2022



Book a Class: Early American Black over Red with Gilded Silver Inner Edge March 30-May 18, 2022



Book a Class: Traditional Water Gilding for picture Frames April 5-May 2, 2022



Book a Class: Kintsugi! July 8-August 29, 2022

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!

Plus a thankful nod to our friends at [Gildedplanet.com](#) for helping to provide the gilding kits, tools, and supplies!

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[Resources](#)

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