



Water Gilding

A practical introductory course combining the use of traditional gilding materials and methods with the application of 23¼ct gold leaf

A three-day intensive, practice-based course held in our gilding workshops. Four students maximum. The aim of the course is to give all students a practical foundation in water gilding. At all stages the historical use and context for the gilding materials will be explored and explained and examples of period antique pieces examined.

Stage 1

Preparation of substrate; making and applying size; making gesso in the traditional manner from rabbit skin size and whiting and applying in layers

Stage 2

Smoothing of dried gesso layers; making and applying bole; significance of bole colour in different periods and effect of colour on the finished gilded surface

Stage 3

Final preparation for gilding; techniques for handling gold leaf; demonstration of cutting and laying gold prior to application of gold by students to a variety of surfaces using water size

Stage 4

Burnishing and finishing of gilded surfaces

Course tutor Martin Body studied at City and Guilds School of Art and has over twenty three years experience working as a gilder. He specialises in restoration of period mirrors and furniture.

All courses are held at our workshop in Camberwell, London. The workshop has excellent natural daylight.

Courses run from 10 am to 5 pm with a break for lunch and periodic tea and coffee breaks throughout the day.

The cost for the three-day course is £340 including all materials (+ 1 book of gold leaf). A deposit of £50 is payable on booking, the remainder due three weeks prior to the course start date.

Course dates:

Email us for details

Please contact
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