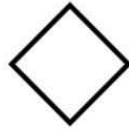


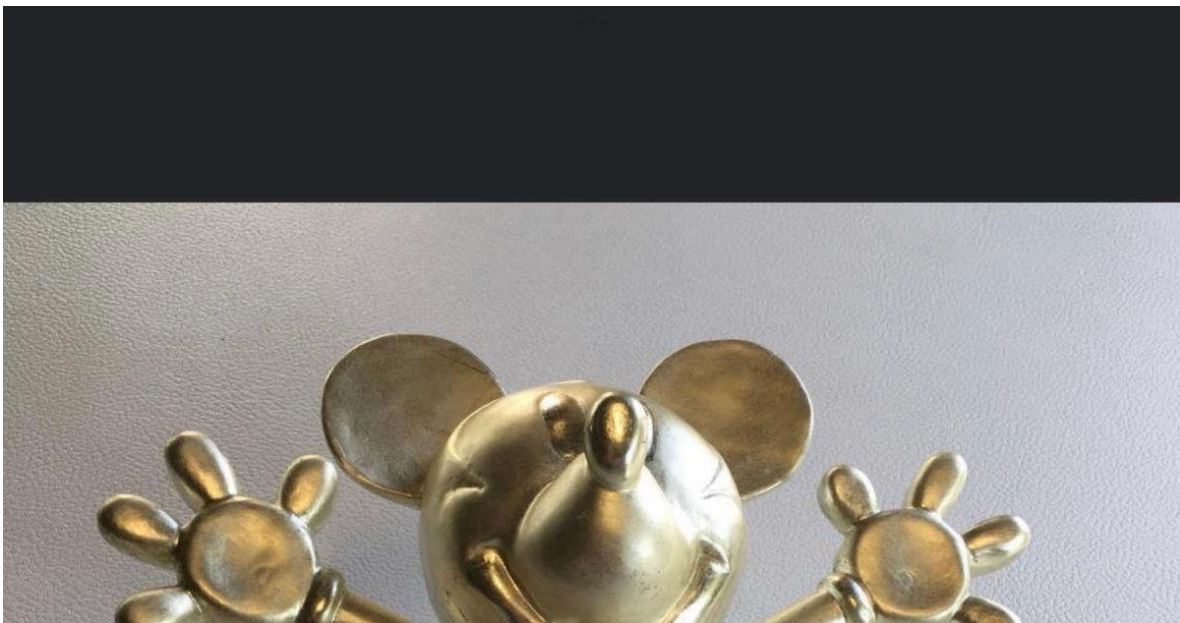
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The Gilding Arts Newsletter

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



CHARLES DOUGLAS GILDING STUDIO





Happy New Year!

Greetings from the Gilding Studio

Dear Friends, Happy New Year everyone! I hope the upcoming year will be a healthy and creative one for you. It's been an exciting and intriguing year in gilding and ready on this end for new things, including in-person classes in San Francisco in July and a return to Christchurch in April!



Meanwhile, the year ended with the final water gilding class for 2025, etching into French Ultramarine Blue Egg Tempera paint in a Sgraffito Water Gilded Panel that culminated this Fall's Panel Gilding online class. When working together for several months new friendships are made as we work together through these ancient methods. It's just nature's way and I look forward to seeing the work that students do!

Next month I'll be back in New York City at our Host's showroom studio at Sepp Leaf. And despite the snow - or perhaps because of it! - the Gilding For Absolute Beginners class is completely sold out so I've added the additional day of Friday, January 30 (and those seats are going so if any of you wish to join us you might want to sign up soon below :). To add this day I'm shifting the Gilding Copper Plates...*in the Footsteps of Rembrandt* class to online (stay tuned for the date). An interesting adventure since not everyone knows that Rembrandt painted on gilded copper plates during a particular part of his career.

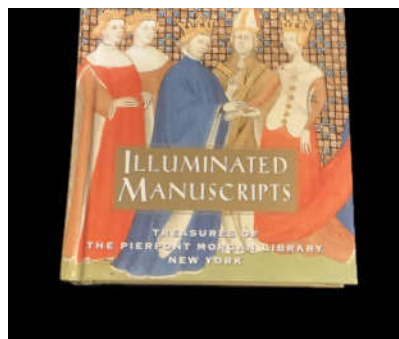
I'll keep this short and extend a big Thank You to all of you who are part of our gilding community here and to those who have come to Study, both online and in-person, and to our Host Sepp Leaf and Gilded Planet for keeping us all stocked and supplied with the beautiful tools and materials we use in our art!

Happy New Year and see you soon!

Peace, health, and clarity,
Charles

Illumination Gilding *Quiz!*

Thank you to each of you who sent in their responses to the Illumination Quiz from our last Newsletter. As you'll recall, the



traditional technique of gilding Raised Gesso on parchment, vellum, or other forms of paper involves breathing on the raised gesso and then applying the gold leaf and burnishing. The Question (and I admit, a little tricky!) was....

Q. Why would the artist want to use their breath when gilding in this manner?

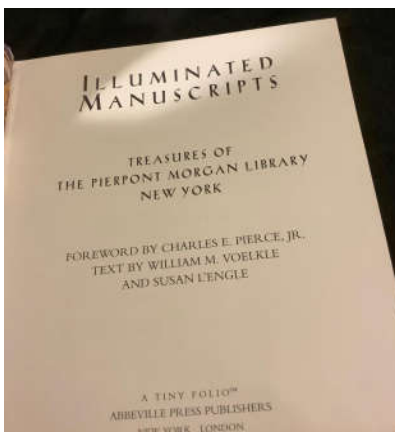
The closest answer came in from artist and Newsletter member Karen in New York, that the binders which are used in the raised gesso such as gum ammoniac and rabbit skin glue adhere the gold leaf to the surface. While this is indeed true, I want us to dig a little deeper as to *why* the gesso is breathed upon which in turn reactivates the binders.

Other historic binders used include fish glue and glair (beaten egg white). Garlic juice (Illinocopia) is often used as well but is better suited for unburnished Flat Gilding as it doesn't burnish but bonds gilding well.

So let's give it another go before I reveal the answer: Why is the technique of breathing on raised gesso used in Manuscript Illumination rather than applying water directly as standard practice with traditional water gilding?

To enter, email your answer to me to the question below at the [Gildingstudio](#) and the first correct answer to arrive wins this little gem of a book *Illuminated Manuscripts*. I know someone will get this and then it will of course seem obvious! :). The first newsletter member to send the correct answer will be contacted for their mailing address and announced in the next newsletter.

And just a quick note, we'll be exploring this technique in a special class in NY October 21, 2026 with an added opportunity to go together to the Morgan Library Museum this June (see below!).



Class Notes...Introducing Subscriptions

A limited number of Subscription Plans are now available as a new optional approach for some of the longer-term Gilding Courses beginning with the 12-Week Water Gilded Panels Course. A Subscription will allow students to spread tuition out over a 3-month period for the online Water Gilding class which takes students through each step of the traditional water gilding method through each of the specialty techniques of Pastiglia, Granito (Punchwork and Incision), and Sgraffito.

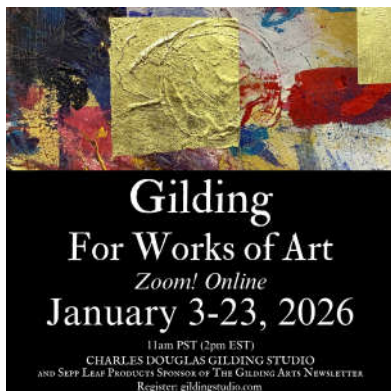
Students can still sign up anytime in advance and secure their place in the class or Register anytime during the first month of the Course series. And since it's a Subscription there are no other added fees that other platforms sometimes require.

For those who prefer the standard one-time tuition payment option will still be available. If anyone has any questions on this (or anything else!) just jot me a note [here](#) and I'll get back to you shortly. The intent is to ease the way for as many students to Study and grow.

Also introduced as a Monthly Subscription is the new Water Gilding Refresher Class which

will be held Twice Monthly Online on Zoom. Since Traditional Water Gilding is the most time-intensive and complex form of gilding, an ongoing online Support Group can be very helpful, whether dealing with issues such as making and applying Gesso and Clay Bole, burnishing, difficulties with getting the gold to adhere properly, spot and double-gilding or gilding in those hard to reach crevices and around intricate details, we can address each of these in a small, supportive group with demos and engaging discussions where your questions will be addressed. This is a perfect companion to those who are studying all forms of Water Gilding who feel they can benefit from guidance and encouragement, from work on Panels and Frames to Architectural Elements and Paper.

Gilding Class Schedule 2026 In-Person and *Zoom!* Online



(Online)
Gilding For Works of Art...*a Study for Fine Artists*

Starts This Saturday!
(If you need to miss a class just catch up with

the recording which gets sent out weekly to students after the Live Session!)

January 3 - 23, 2026

***All Zoom Classes Live and Recorded! Q & A Weekly**

READ MORE and
REGISTER HERE -
(Online) - Gilding For
Works of Art, January
3-23, 2026 (\$275)



**(Online) Glass
Gilding...An
Introduction to Verre
Églomisé**

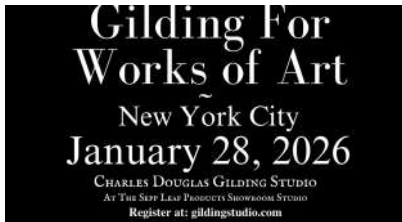
January 7 -

February 18, 2026

***All Zoom Classes Live and
Recorded! Q & A Weekly**

READ MORE and
REGISTER HERE ~
(Online) Glass Gilding:
Intro to Verre Églomisé
~ Jan. 7 - Feb. 18, 2026
~ (\$295)

**(In-Person)
Gilding For Works of**

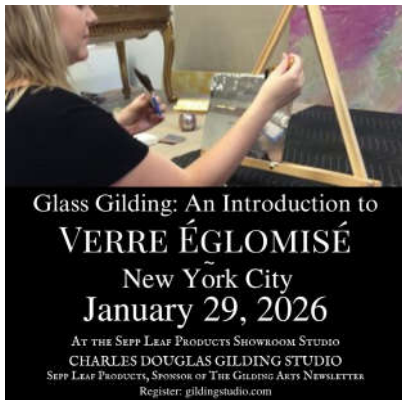


Art...a Study for Fine Artists

New York
Sepp Leaf Products
Showroom Studio
January 28, 2026

Class Limit: 9 Students

READ MORE and
REGISTER HERE - (In
Person) - Gilding For
Works of Art, January
28, 2026 (\$275)



(In-Person) Glass Gilding...An Introduction to Verre Églomisé

New York City
Sepp Leaf Products
January 29, 2026

Class Limit: 9

READ MORE and
REGISTER HERE ~
Glass Gilding: Intro to
Verre Églomisé ~
January 29, 2026 ~
(\$285)

(In-Person) Gilding For Absolute Beginners!

**Gilding...
for Absolute Beginners!**
2nd Session Just Added!
In-Person Class
New York City
January 30, 2026
CHARLES DOUGLAS GILDING STUDIO
At The SEPP LEAF PRODUCTS SHOWROOM STUDIO
Register at: gildingstudio.com

**2nd Session Just Added!
6 Spots Left**

**New York City
Sepp Leaf Products
Showroom Studio
January 30, 2026**

Class Limit: 9

READ MORE and
REGISTER HERE ~
Gilding For Absolute
Beginners ~ January 30,
2026 ~ (\$275)



**Traditional
Water Gilded Panels**
*The Method of 13th-18th Century
Florence and Siena*
~
Zoom! Online
Feb. 6 - Apr. 17, 2026
11am PST (2pm EST)
CHARLES DOUGLAS GILDING STUDIO AND SEPP LEAF PRODUCTS
Register at: gildingstudio.com

(Zoom Online)

**Traditional Water Gilded
Panels...*The Method of
13th-18th Century Florence and
Siena***

**New 3-Month Subscription!
Designed for Fine Artists for
Water Gilded Egg Tempera,
Oil, or Acrylic Panel Painting.**

**Feb. 6-April 17, 2026
*All Zoom Classes Live and
Recorded! Q & A Weekly**

READ MORE and REGISTER
HERE ~ (Online 3 Month
Subscription) Water Gilded
Panels - Feb. 6-April 17, 2026
(\$159 every month for 3 months)



(Zoom Online)
**Creating the Antique Dutch
Black Finish..**

With a Gilded Inner Edge

Feb. 10 - Mar 31, 2026

***All Zoom Classes Live and
Recorded! Q & A Weekly**

READ MORE and REGISTER
HERE ~ (Online) Creating The
Antique Dutch Black Finish,
Feb. 10 - Mar. 31, 2026 (\$350)



(Zoom Online)
**Traditional Water Gilding
Refresher Class**
*A Twice-Monthly Subscription for
Troubleshooting Water Gilding
and Discovering New Techniques*

~
(All Levels Welcome!)

**Registration is Now Open!
Starts February 12, 2026**

***All Zoom Classes Live and
Recorded! Q & A Weekly**

READ MORE and REGISTER
HERE ~ (Online Subscription)

Water Gilding Refresher Class,
Twice-Monthly 1 Hr. Meetings
~ (Cancel Anytime ~ \$99/every
month;)



Early American Black over Red
Historical Tinted Shellac
With an Antiqued
Gilded Silver Leaf Inner Edge
March 4 - April 8, 2026
Wednesdays: 11am PDT | 2pm EDT
CHARLES DOUGLAS GILDING STUDIO
AND SEPP LEAF PRODUCTS SPONSOR OF THE GILDING ARTS NEWSLETTER
Register: gildingstudio.com

(Zoom Online)

**Early American Black over
Red Frame Finish...with
*Silver Leaf Gilded Edge***

March 4 - April 8, 2026

***All Zoom Classes Live and
Recorded! Q & A Weekly**

READ MORE and REGISTER
HERE ~ (Online) Early
American Black over Red
Frame Finish, March 4 - April
8, 2026 (\$275)



(Christchurch, New Zealand)
In-Person Gilding Classes

APRIL 22-26, 2026!

REGISTRATION OPEN

**Gilding For Works of Art ~
*April 22, 2026***

**Glass Gilding/Intro to Verre
Églomisé ~ *April 23-24, 2026***

**Traditional Water Gilded
Frames and Panels ~ *April
25-26, 2025***

- **A Special Discount for all 3 Classes!**



**The Arts Centre
2 Worcester Blvd.
Canterbury
Christchurch, New Zealand**

REGISTER HERE ~
(Christchurch, New Zealand)
Gilding For Works of Art ~
Glass Gilding ~ Water Gilded
Frames and Panels - April 22-26,
2026



**Gilding...
for Absolute Beginners!**

In-Person Class
New York City
June 2, 2026

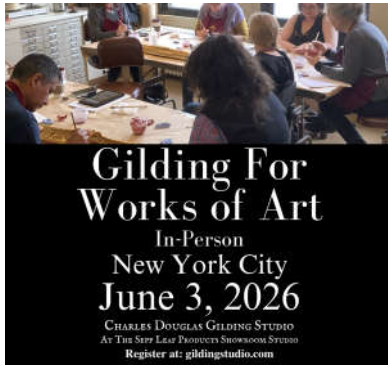
CHARLES DOUGLAS GILDING STUDIO
At The Sepp Leaf Products Showroom Studio
Register at: gildingstudio.com

**(In-Person) Gilding For
Absolute Beginners!**

**New York City
Sepp Leaf Products
Showroom Studio
June 2, 2026**

Class Limit: 9

READ MORE and
REGISTER HERE ~
Gilding For Absolute
Beginners ~ June 2,
2026 ~ (\$275)



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

New York
Sepp Leaf Products
Showroom Studio
June 3, 2026

Class Limit: 9 Students

READ MORE and
REGISTER HERE - (In
Person) - Gilding For
Works of Art, June 3,
2026 (\$275)



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

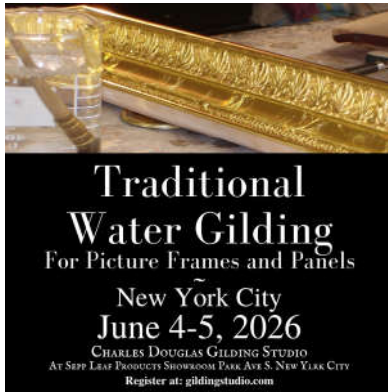
2 Spots Left!

Coupeville, Whidbey
Island
Private Studio
March 28, 2026

Class Limit: 3 Students

READ MORE and
REGISTER HERE - (In
Person) - Gilding For

Works of Art, March
28, 2026 (\$275)



**(In-Person) Traditional
Water Gilding...*For
Picture Frames and
Panels***

**New York City
Sepp Leaf Products
June 4-5, 2026**

Class Limit: 9

READ MORE and
REGISTER HERE ~
Traditional Water
Gilding for Frames and
Panels ~ June 4-5, 2026
~ (\$525)

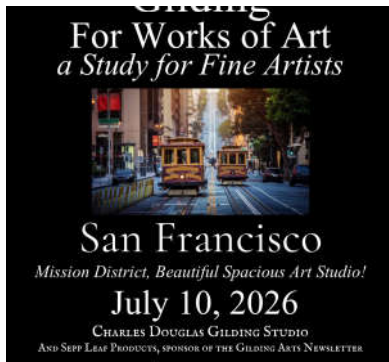


**(In-Person) Gilding For
Absolute Beginners!**

**San Francisco
Mission District
July 9, 2026**

Class Limit: 12

READ MORE and
REGISTER HERE ~
Gilding For Absolute
Beginners ~ July 9,
2026 ~ (\$275)



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

**San Francisco
Mission District
July 10, 2026**

Class Limit: 12 Students

READ MORE and
REGISTER HERE - (In
Person) - Gilding For
Works of Art, July 10,
2026 (\$275)



(In-Person) **Traditional
Water Gilding...*For
Picture Frames and
Panels***

**San Francisco
Mission District
July 11-12, 2026**

Class Limit: 12

READ MORE and
REGISTER HERE ~
Traditional Water
Gilding for Frames and
Panels ~ July 11-12,
2026 ~ (\$525)



(In-Person) Gilding For Absolute Beginners!

**New York City
Sepp Leaf Products
Showroom Studio
October 20, 2026**

Class Limit: 9

READ MORE and
REGISTER HERE ~
Gilding For Absolute
Beginners ~ October
20, 2026 ~ (\$275)



(In-Person) *Introduction to Traditional 24kt Illuminated Gilded Raised Gesso*

Including the Breath Technique

**New York City
Sepp Leaf Products
Showroom Studio
October 21, 2026**

Class Limit: 9

READ MORE and REGISTER
HERE ~ Introduction to
Traditional Illuminated 24kt
Gilded Raised Gesso - Oct. 21,
2026 ~ (\$295)



**Traditional
Water Gilding**
For Picture Frames and Panels
~
New York City
October 22-23, 2026
CHARLES DOUGLAS GILDING STUDIO
AT SEPP LEAF PRODUCTS SHOWROOM PARK AVE S. NEW YORK CITY
Register at: gildingstudio.com

(In-Person) Traditional Water Gilding...*For Picture Frames and Panels*

**New York City
Sepp Leaf Products
October 22-23, 2026**

Class Limit: 9

READ MORE and
REGISTER HERE ~
Traditional Water
Gilding for Frames and
Panels ~ October 22-23,
2026 ~ (\$525)



Gold Leaf Gilding Class
Zoom! Online
Recording Archives
Water Gilding - Oil Gilding - Gesso
Restoration - Gilding for Works of Art
Glass Gilding/Verre Eglomise
Gilding for Works of Art - Sgraffito - Gesso
CHARLES DOUGLAS GILDING STUDIO
IN ASSOCIATION WITH SEPP LEAF PRODUCTS SPONSOR OF THE GILDING ARTS NEWSLETTER
Register: gildingstudio.com

(Online Recordings

**Pre-Recorded Classes from
the Online Zoom Archives!**

**Prefer to Binge Watch on Your
Own Time? ~ Select from a
Wide-Range of Gilding Classes
and Receive the Full Series of
Recording Links from Previous
Zoom Classes. 1 Full Year
Viewing Access. (Recipes and
Links for Gilding Kits Provided
Upon Registration).**

LEARN MORE &
REGISTER HERE ~

(Recording Archives)
Select from a Wide
Variety of Classes from
Water Gilded Frames and
Panels to Dutch Black and
Gesso- Making (Prices
Vary)



(Digital Gift Card)

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*~ Perfect for any day of the
year!*

Available Year Round

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~ LEARN MORE &
REGISTER HERE ~
(Digital Gift Card)
Multiple Denominations
Available at the Drop
Down Menu)



Gold Leaf Gilding Classes
Zoom! Online & In-Person
Water Gilding ~ Oil Gilding ~ Glass Gilding
Verre Églomisé ~ Restoration ~ Gesso
Gilding for Absolute Beginners
Gilding for Works of Art ~ Sgraffito ~ Pastiglia
CHARLES DOUGLAS GILDING STUDIO
IN ASSOCIATION WITH SEPP LEAF PRODUCTS SPONSOR OF THE GILDING ARTS NEWSLETTER
Register: gildingstudio.com

**More Online and In Person
Classes Coming for 2026!
Glass Gilding, Toning for
Gilded Frames, Raised
Gesso, Study Groups, *and
more!***

**[Click Here](#) to View the Complete
Current Schedule for 2026 with
more classes coming! Now Open For
Registration for All Online and In-**

Person Gilding Classes as well as Archive Recordings of previous Live Zoom Classes.

For Students Needing Gilding Kits...

.... You can read about the kits and some preliminary information on my website at www.gildingstudio.com. For further information you can either contact Gilded Planet or drop me a note at the [gilding studio](http://gildingstudio.com) and I'll help guide you. Plus, when you're ready, I can pass along a special Promo Code just for students (a quick email to me is all you need)!

Student Gilding Kits from GildedPlanet.com!



A Special *Thank You* to [Sepp Leaf Products, Inc.](http://SeppLeafProducts.com), 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!

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

Vase created by Scott Potter
Photo by Robert Diamante

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Contact the Gilding Studio

