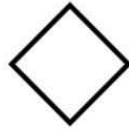


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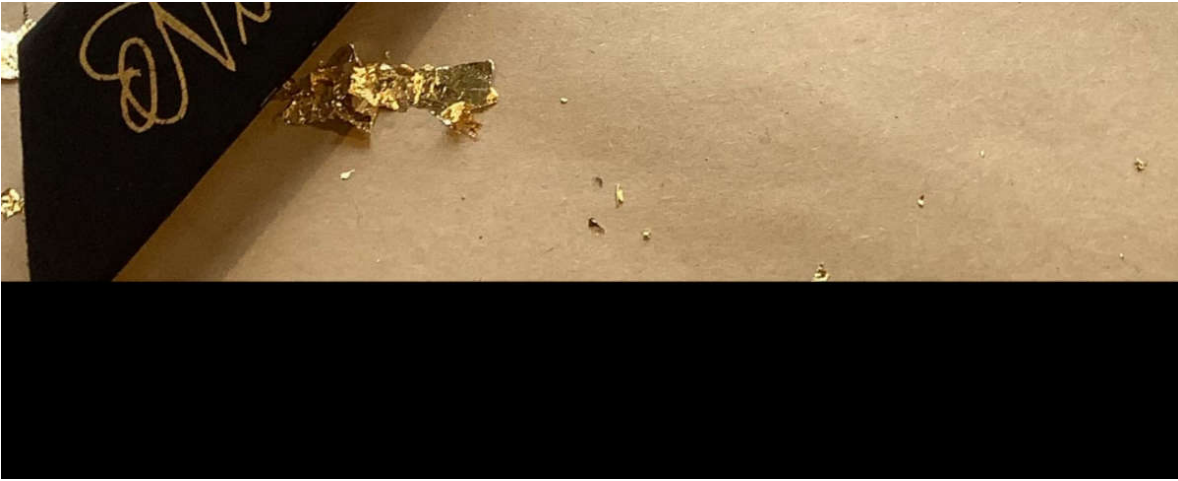
# The Gilding Arts Newsletter

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



CHARLES DOUGLAS GILDING STUDIO





## *Greetings from the Gilding Studio*

Dear Friends, I hope everyone is dealing ok with this wild Winter snow storm! I'm currently on my way to New York from Whidbey Island - my second attempt this week! - for a series of well attended classes.



As some students needed to shift from some of the sold out classes to the June NY classes a few seats have opened up with a 3rd Session of Gilding For Absolute Beginners Added for next Wednesday, February 4! The links can all be found below if you want to bundle up and join us :).

I'll keep this Newsletter short but wanted for those who were hoping to take an in-person gilding class while I'm in Neto know there's now some openings available. It should be an artistic and fun week ahead!

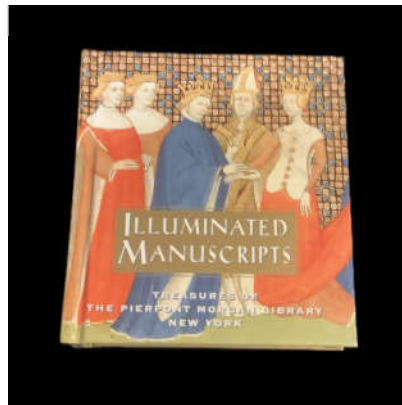
Also...take a peek below on the results of our Illumination Quiz which I'm sure you're all curious about!

Meanwhile, keep your eye on the Instagram Page for Postings from New York!

Peace, health, and clarity,  
Charles

## **Illumination Gilding *Quiz!***

Thank you to everyone who sent in their thoughtful responses to our current Quiz, with the question *‘Why is the Breath Technique’ used when gilding raised gesso*



*in Manuscript Illumination?’* Although I can't always respond personally to all those who responded it is still much appreciated to feel your engagement. Each submission was well considered on your part and accurate in their own sense even if not quite hitting the key answer.

Essentially, the 'Breath Technique' is where the artist breathes on the gilded raised gesso, applies the leaf, and burnishes the gold,

generally within moments. In traditional water gilding, aside from approaches in Orthodox Iconography, water is applied followed by the leaf and burnishing after a period of drying.

So why the use of breath for Illuminations on paper? The popular answer I received is for the protection of the paper. While it's true that we want our art to be protected from certain materials or in the technique of our application, it isn't the main goal here. In fact, paper can also be *Flat Gilded* with an aqueous medium such as Glair (beaten egg white) so it isn't necessarily a prevention from harming the paper.

Raised Gesso for use on paper can contain other mordants typically not found in traditional gilder's gesso such as gum ammoniac which is very hygroscopic as well as garlic juice (*Ilinocopia*) although garlic juice is better suited to Flat Gilding as it inhibits burnishing. Other additives such as honey or other forms of sugar will aid in flexibility, important for use on such a flexible surface as paper (or vellum and parchment).

The intention artistically is to gild *only* the raised areas without any of the gold leaf sticking to the surrounding areas of the paper around the raised gesso, therefore isolating the

areas to be gilded specifically to the Raised Gesso.

Certain mordants such as gum ammoniac are so hygroscopic that the breath alone can activate their adhesive quality, allowing the thin gold leaf to adhere only to the raised gesso. The surrounding paper around the gesso will remain dry therefore keeping the gold leaf from sticking anywhere else.

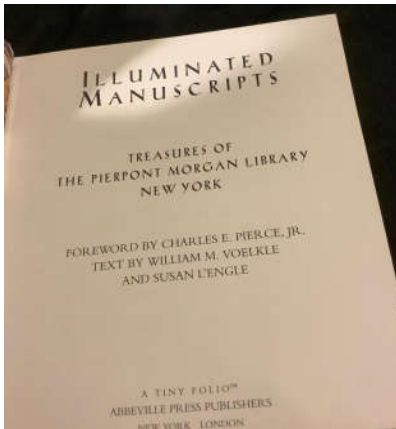
I prefer to use a short, hollowed-out Bamboo stick for breathing as it focuses the diaphragmatic breath specifically on the raised gesso while absorbing any excessive moisture to avoid salivating on the artwork.

It's also important that the ratios of the materials in the gesso to be in specific proportion to one another for the gold leaf to adhere successfully, burnish brightly, and for the gesso to be sufficiently flexible to avoid developing crack mechanisms. If humidity in the room is too low then adhesion of the gold leaf can be difficult; too high and burnishing too early can break-through and severely damage the gilded gesso. Meanwhile, garlic juice can be so hygroscopic that it was found historically to cause paper to stick to the gilding if in a book when humidity increases. (plus it doesn't burnish). Too much honey can

cause the gesso to remain soft and therefore vulnerable.

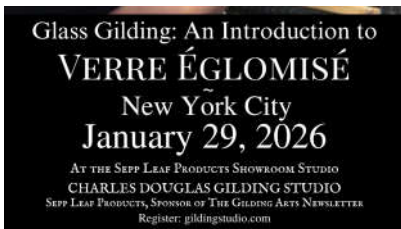
And therein lies the answer to this perplexing Quiz! I realize that those who wrote may have had this in mind but I want to point out that the breath technique used in this way was developed to address how to gild a specific area without gilding its surroundings, a situation that comes up in other forms of gilding as well.

Thank you all again. And since the little book on Manuscript Illumination from the Mirgan Library Museum remains in the Gilding Studio we'll explore a new Question in the next newsletter! ~



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

**(In-Person) Glass  
Gilding...An**



## *Introduction to Verre Églomisé*

**New York City  
Sepp Leaf Products  
January 29, 2026**

**Class Limit: 9 (1 Seat Left!)**

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



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

**New York  
Sepp Leaf Products  
Showroom Studio  
February 2, 2026**

**Class Limit: 9 Students**

READ MORE and  
REGISTER HERE - (In  
Person) - Gilding For  
Works of Art, February  
2, 2026 (\$275)

**(In-Person) Gilding For**



## Absolute Beginners!

**3rd Session Just Added!**

**New York City  
Sepp Leaf Products  
Showroom Studio  
February 4, 2026**

**Class Limit: 9**

READ MORE and  
REGISTER HERE ~  
Gilding For Absolute  
Beginners ~ February 4,  
2026 ~ (\$275)



**(Zoom Online)**

***New! ~ Gilding 101***

***Learn about the Different  
Methods of Gold Leaf Gilding  
and the Tools and Materials.***

***An Excellent Introduction to the  
World of Gilding for the true  
Beginner. ~***

**90-Minute Online Zoom  
Masterclass to help you make  
an informed decision on  
finding the right course or  
Series of Study for the  
Aspiring Gilder!**

**February 21, 2026**

**\* Live and Recorded! Including**

## Q & A

READ MORE and REGISTER  
HERE ~ Gilding 101 -  
February 21, 2026 (\$60)



**(Zoom Online)**  
**Traditional Water Gilded  
Panels...*From Pastiglia to  
Sgraffito***  
*The Method of 13th-18th Century  
Florence and Siena*

**Designed for Fine Artists for  
use with Water Gilded Egg  
Tempera, Oil, or Acrylic  
Panel Painting.**

**March 6 - May 29, 2026**  
**\*All Zoom Classes Live and  
Recorded! Q & A Weekly**

READ MORE and REGISTER  
HERE ~ (Online) Water Gilded  
Panels - March 6 - May 29,  
2026 (\$475)



**(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)



### **Water Gilding Refresher Class**

Twice-Monthly Online Tutoring  
Gesso - Bole - Gilding Complex Carvings  
Troubleshooting - Crit Labs - Q & A  
*Starts February 12, 2026*  
Offered by Monthly Subscription (Now Open)  
CHARLES DOUGLAS GILDING STUDIO AND SEPP LEAF PRODUCTS  
Register at: [gildingstudio.com](http://gildingstudio.com)

**(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;)



**(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



**(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**



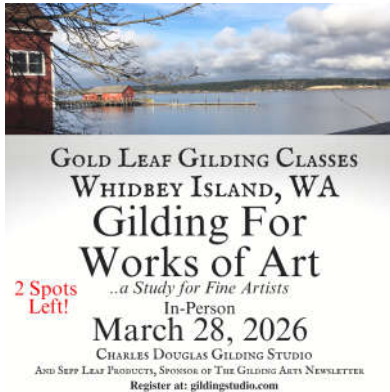
New York City  
June 3, 2026

CHARLES DOUGLAS GILDING STUDIO  
At The Sepp Leaf Products Showroom Studio  
Register at: [gildingstudio.com](http://gildingstudio.com)

## 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)

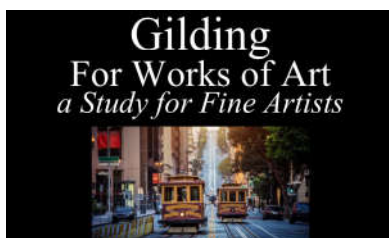


## **(In-Person)** Gilding For Absolute Beginners!

**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*

July 10, 2026

CHARLES DOUGLAS GILDING STUDIO  
AND SEPP LEAF PRODUCTS, SPONSOR OF THE GILDING ARTS NEWSLETTER

## 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)



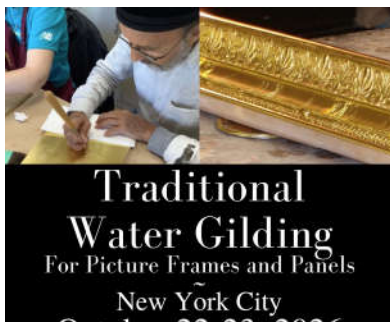
**(In-Person) *Introduction to Traditional 24kt Illuminated Gilded Raised Gesso***

***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)



**(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 Eglomisé  
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](http://gildingstudio.com)

## Online Recordings

**Pre-Recorded Classes from  
the Online Zoom Class  
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



An excellent Gift Idea for any  
In-Person or Online Gilding Class!  
*...for Anytime of the Year*  
CHARLES DOUGLAS GILDING STUDIO

## **(Digital Gift Card)**

**Digital Gift Card for Any In-Person or Online Gilding Class**  
*~ Perfect for any day of the year!*

**Available Year Round**

DIGITAL GIFT CARDS  
~ 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](http://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

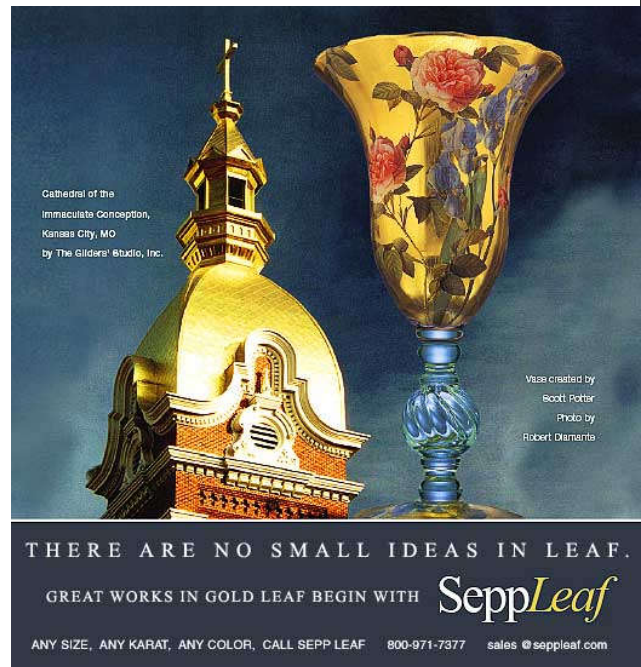
information on my website at [www.gildingstudio.com](http://www.gildingstudio.com). For further information you can either contact Gilded Planet or drop me a note at the [gilding studio](#) and I'll help guide you. Plus, when you're ready, I can pass along a special Promo Code just for students (a quick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

## *Student Gilding Kits from GildedPlanet.com!*



A Special *Thank You* to [Sepp Leaf Products, Inc.](#), 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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[Photo Gallery](#)

[Resources](#)

[Contact the Gilding Studio](#)

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+1 206-795-8376

