

COURSE DETAILS – LONG WEEKEND LW 0199

TITLE: AN INTRODUCTION TO TRADITIONAL WATER GILDING

TUTOR: JUDY WETHERALL

LEVEL: BEGINNERS

AIMS OF COURSE:

The use of gold leaf as a decorative surface is as old as the Pharaohs, and the methods and materials have changed very little, although gilding's scope and application is now very broad. The course is designed with the beginner in mind, and although water gilding is a complex and time-consuming craft the basic skills should be grasped within the course. Participants are introduced to traditional water gilding as applied to new surfaces – this will include picture frames during the course, but the techniques may subsequently also be applied to furniture, architectural ornamentation, sculpture, lettering, painting panels and decorative art objects.

WHAT STUDENTS SHOULD ACHIEVE:

Students will work on two small frames, panels or several test pieces – which may include MDF boards or small new wood pieces brought in by students. The tutor will prepare with gesso one frame per student for the initial project. Students may then purchase a second frame to gesso or work on a suitable object they have brought with them to experience gilding preparation of an object from scratch, though these items may not dry sufficiently to complete the entire gilding process during the course.

MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUES COVERED:

Using traditional materials and methods, students will be guided through all stages of preparation including the making and application of gesso, coloured bole and the laying, burnishing and tooling of loose leaf gold (and other precious metal) leaf.

Further techniques are introduced on Gilding Part 2 – A Creative Workshop (students must have undertaken an introductory course preferably with the tutor). Please contact the Admissions Department for details if you would like to find out more.

TEACHING METHOD:

Tutor demonstrations and discussion, followed by hands-on practice.

It is important to note that the course is designed as a practical introduction to water gilding for new surfaces, and that restoration and conservation of gilded surfaces cannot be undertaken as part of this course, although the tutor is willing to discuss potential projects outside the course.

EVENING SESSIONS:

First evening session – attendance is an essential part of the course:

The tutor will discuss techniques and methods to be used during the course and run through health and safety issues and the course timetable.

Other optional evening activities:

On the second evening the tutor will give an optional talk including images on the historical background of water gilding. The studio will be open until 10pm so students are welcome to work untutored during this time if they prefer.

STUDENT PREPARATION FOR COURSE IF ANY:

Students are encouraged to bring small new wood objects to gild, for their second project (alternatively bare frames may be purchased at the College), but please check for suitability in advance of the course on the tutor's questionnaire overleaf.

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

The tutor instructs students in health and safety issues relevant to this course. Students may work unsupervised on agreed projects once they have satisfied the tutor as to their competence. There may be restrictions on the equipment available to students in the tutor's absence. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.

WET13D2

MATERIALS FOR THE COURSE:

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT ON PRACTICAL COURSES YOU MAY WELL NEED TO PURCHASE MATERIALS THROUGHOUT THE COURSE TO COMPLETE PROJECTS

Included in the course fee is the cost of one prepared frame and general gilding supplies used during the course (excluding gold leaf which is purchased separately).

It is essential to bring the following:

Small new wooden objects – at least 2, it is advisable to check suitability of what you are bringing in advance with the tutor

Stick/wooden spoon	2 Pyrex pudding basins approx. 1 litre or 2 pint capacity
Pair tights/stockings	2 Plastic cups or yoghurt pots
3 or 4 glass jars (baby food size or similar)	1 Paper plate
Kitchen towel	Stick of lip salve or small pot of Vaseline
Cotton wool	Old saucepan (smallish) with chicken wire in base (to make water-bath for basins)
1 or 2 bamboo kebab sticks	8cm Nail, rounded and polished at end
2 Old mugs	Any small woodcarving or lino cutting tools you may have
Scissors	Rags (old cotton e.g. small piece of sheeting)
Overall/apron	

The items below will be available to purchase in the College Shop, please bring any you may also have:

Additional small frames or MDF panels (bare wood)
Gold leaf books (loose leaf books) these cost approximately £15 per book of 25 leaves. You may need 2 books
Rabbit skin glue, 100gm
Whiting 1 kilo
Round ox hair brush or nylon No. 8 or 6
½" Flat nylon or ox hair brush
Flat hog hair brush S40 ½"
No 1 or 2 round sable brush
Round pony hair or squirrel No 8
'Tiranti' filling spatula No. 46
Abrasive papers: silicone carbide 120,180, 320, 600

PLEASE NOTE: The College will supply each student with a kit of brushes and gilding tools for use only during the course but students may wish to use their own if they prefer. Please contact the tutor for advice prior to the course if requested.

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COURSE TIMETABLE (unless otherwise stated above or agreed with the tutor during the course)

Course timetable for 2–9 day courses – each course starts with a welcome session on the first evening of the start date of the course and is followed by 2–9 days depending on the length of the course.

Arrival Day	From 4.00pm 7.00 8.15–9.15	Arrival for residential students. Non-residential students please arrive by 6.45pm for welcome chat and dinner. Dinner. First teaching session.
Daily Timetable	9.15am 10.30 12.45pm 2.00pm 3.30 5.00 7.00 8.15	Morning classes. Coffee. Lunch. Afternoon classes. Tea. Classes finish. Dinner. Evening working – students may have evening access to certain workshops in the absence of their tutor, but only with their tutor's permission and provided it is safe to do so.
Departure – last day	10.00am 3.00pm 3.30	Residential students are asked to vacate rooms. Classes finish. Tea then departure.

WET13D2

QUESTIONNAIRE

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS QUESTIONNAIRE DIRECTLY TO THE TUTOR AT LEAST TEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE START OF THE COURSE. THANK YOU.

COURSE TITLE: AN INTRODUCTION TO TRADITIONAL WATER GILDING
TUTOR: JUDY WETHERALL

COURSE NO: LW0199
COURSE DATES: 6–9 MARCH 2009

Name: _____ (Mr/Mrs/Ms): _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Occupation/Hobbies or interest in gilding:

Do you have any objects you wish to bring for gilding? If so, please contact me for their suitability!

Write or e-mail: judith@thewetheralls.org.uk

Mail: Judy Wetherall, 28 Silverlea Gardens, Horley, Surrey. RH6 9BB