

TIMES SQUARE · BROADWAY · 42ND STREET · BROOKLYN BRIDGE · WEST VILLAGE · GRAND CENTRAL STATION



Learn  
*Traditional Water Gilding*  
in New York City!

Oct. 5th - 7th, 2016  
10:30am - 4:30pm  
Sepp Leaf Products  
381 Park Avenue South

Register at:  
[gildingstudio.com](http://gildingstudio.com)

Charles Douglas Gilding Studio

STATUE OF LIBERTY · 5TH AVENUE · CENTRAL PARK · SOUTH STREET SEAPORT · EMPIRE STATE BUILDING

# The Gilding Arts Newsletter

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

CHARLES DOUGLAS  
GILDING STUDIO  
Seattle, WA

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## Quick Links

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France  
[\Palace of Versailles](#)

September 1, 2016

## *Just Added!* October Gilding Workshops New York City

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**Register Early**  
*Last NY classes till 2017!*  
[\(Scroll Here\)](#)  
*(September Registration now closed)*



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## **New York**

**October 4, 2016**

### **Sacred Gilding...Gilding the Buddah**

*A Study in Oil Gilding*

*(Including a Special Presentation of  
Gilding for the Holidays!)*

*From the Early Egyptians to present day liturgical use, gilding has always had a special place in the Sacred. Come explore this meditative path with the gilding of a personal Buddah statue to take with you.*

~

**October 5-7, 2016**

### **Traditional Water Gilding**

*The Popular 3-Day Study of this ancient method of gold leaf gilding. Includes all materials, a book of 23k gold leaf, and a special object to gild and take home.*

Join our list

Join Our Mailing List!

## Seattle

September 24, 2016

**Gold Leaf Gilding**  
*for Works of Art on Paper*  
*Canvas, & Panels*  
*...a Study for Fine Artists*

October 15, 2016

**Glass Gilding for Mirrors:**  
*The Basis of Verre Églomisé*

September 26-30, 2016

**Traditional Water Gilding**  
*...a Perspective of Florence*

A five-day Intensive in Seattle, WA

Create a Cracked-Gesso Water Gilded Panel in 23k  
Gold Leaf

*Includes all materials, a book of 23k gold leaf,  
your choice of a raw wood panel or frame  
to gild and take home, and a field trip to the Seattle  
Art Museum to view their Gilded Frame Collection.*

*Learn every step of the traditional water gilding  
method of gold leafing with a special focus on an  
aged, crackled appearance as seen on 13th-15thc  
Florentine gilded panels.*

~

*New! 10% Member Discount*  
For Gilding Arts Newsletter Members Only  
(Must Register through Newsletter for Discount)

To register for Member Discount

***Scroll Below***

(Click Here)

For General Information Visit:

[www.gildingstudio.com](http://www.gildingstudio.com)

***(Gilding Kits now available Here!)***

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## Seeking the Meniscus...*Measurements used in Gilding*

Often students will ask during the Traditional Water Gilding class whether the measurement of materials should be by weight or volume when preparing rabbit skin glue size, gesso, and clay bole. I usually



preface my answer by first pointing out that I prefer the metric form of measuring as I find it more exacting. When I switched many years ago from the US table of measurements to metric I performed a simple test: I measured by eye what appeared to be an ounce by volume of dry rabbit skin glue and then weighed it on a metric balance scale for comparison.

Each time I performed the test the metric equivalent was different. That was convincing enough for me to make the switch to metric; I needed to match samples of gilded picture frame finishes as closely as possible and since there are so many things that can go wrong in gilding it's best to control what can be controlled and that would include the measurement and freshness of materials.

The question of whether to measure by volume or weight is a little more complicated. The equivalency of measuring materials by either of these two methods depends upon the material. Water may be measured either by weight or volume (1 ML of water

= 1 gram). So which is better, to measure water by volume in a Graduate or weigh it on a metric scale? To answer this let me illustrate that in the past when I chose to weigh dry materials such as rabbit skin glue and whiting on a metric scale I measured water by volume in a Graduate, keeping the beaker as steady and even as possible for accuracy. However, I inadvertently discovered one day that a specific amount of water that I measured by sight of volume did not equal the same when weighed on the metric scale.

The reason for the discrepancy is due to what is called the meniscus which is the curve in the upper surface of the water in the Graduate. A meniscus may be either convex or concave depending upon the liquid and the surface material of the object containing the water. Water and the use of a glass beaker or plastic Graduate will produce a concave meniscus as shown in this photo of colored water in a burette, the proper reading being 20 ML:



Courtesy of  
Wikimedia

What this means in practice for gilders is that the proper measurement of water requires viewing the surface of the water through the measuring container straight on so that the meniscus can be seen; it is the bottom of this curve that determines the proper measurement. As an example, if you are seeking to measure 50 ML of water make sure that the bottom of the curve is at the 50 ML mark.

To discover how much difference there might be by virtually 'eyeballing' a certain amount of water in a Graduate I tested measuring by volume 50 ML of water without specifically looking for the meniscus

but still seeking a measurement that seemed fairly accurate. I then weighed this amount of water on a metric scale with a result of 41grams! When making small batches of rabbit skin glue size or bole mixtures this nearly 20% variance could prove quite drastic, partially because we run the risk of using a glue size that is stronger than we think.

What we can learn from this is that we need to seek the meniscus of water if choosing to measure by volume. Considering the chance for error, however, it is simpler and safer to weigh the water on a reliable metric scale.

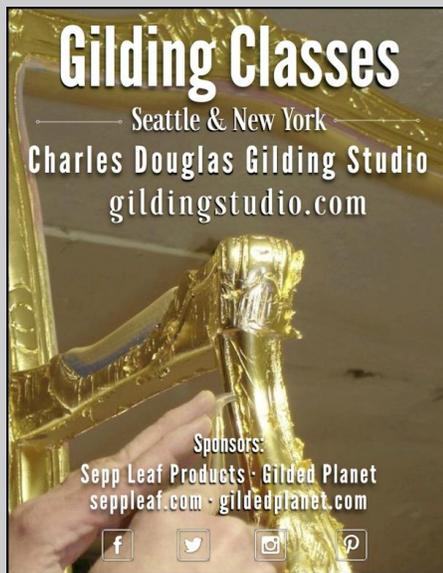
*~ Charles Douglas*

*~ "The truth is rarely pure and never simple."  
Oscar Wilde, The Importance of Being Earnest,*

*1895*

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**2016 Gilding Workshop  
Registration**



**New York City**



**Sacred Gilding...Gilding the Buddah**

***A Study in Oil Gilding***

***(Including a Special Presentation of  
Gilding for the Holidays!)***

***October 4, 2016***

***Class Fee: \$250  
(\$225 with Member Discount)***

**Pay Now**



***Introduction to  
Traditional Water Gilding***

***October 5-7, 2016***

***Class Fee: \$650  
(\$585 with Member Discount)***

**Pay Now**



**Seattle**

~

***Gold Leaf Gilding on  
Canvas, Paper, & Panels***

*...a Study for Fine Artists*

***September 24, 2016***

*Class Fee: \$250  
(\$225 with Member Discount)*

[Pay Now](#)

~

***Traditional Water Gilding***

*...a Perspective of Florence*

***September 26-30, 2016***

*Class Fee: \$1,100  
(\$990 with Member Discount)*

[Pay Now](#)

***Glass Gilding***

***Gilded Mirrors & the Basis of  
Verre Églomisé***

***October 15, 2016***

*Class Fee: \$250  
(\$225 with Member Discount)*

[Pay Now](#)

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12kt White Gold Leaf Watergilded  
with a black casein wash applied  
over a shellac topcoat

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### Cancellation Policy

Full Refund up to 30 Days before Class Start Date, no refunds less than 30 Days before the first day of class. Voucher good for one year will be provided for make-up class when class space is available. Full Refund if class is cancelled by teacher.

*All classes provide the use of studio tools and materials. For those who wish to own their own Gilding Kit please visit [GildedPlanet.com](http://GildedPlanet.com) for a student discount! Promo Code: GSclass2016*

[www.gildedplanet.com](http://www.gildedplanet.com)



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The [Gilding Arts  
Newsletter](#)  
periodically publishes  
technical information  
concerning the  
various methods of  
gold leaf gilding. Some of these topics are in series  
formats such as the series on Traditional Water  
Gilding.



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