

## SHORT COURSE DETAILS

ID6548 GILDING FOR PAINTERS

Tutor: JUDY WETHERALL

Dates: ONE DAY TUESDAY 1 NOVEMBER

### ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

*For millennia, from ancient Egyptians and Greeks onwards, painted surfaces have incorporated gold and other precious metals. From Duccio and Botticelli to Klimt, the esoteric use of gold in paintings has a long tradition.*

This course briefly introduces traditional practices of gilding using pure gold leaf on both rigid painting supports including gesso on wood (egg tempera panels) and flexible supports such as canvas (oil paintings).

Gilding materials and techniques are then explored to incorporate non-traditional materials, allowing for greater application of gilding across a variety of painting supports (including wood, fabric and paper) and media including acrylics and watercolour or gouache. Using gold leaf, and other precious metal leaf if chosen, you will gild on the painted and un-painted surfaces you will bring, to inform your work and produce samples and explorations of technique for future use.

Following group demonstrations and talks, you will work on the paintings and supports you will bring (see 'preparation'), including finished paintings, unfinished pieces or sketch-book work. One-to-one support will help you advance your skills and application of the process in your own work.

The day will give you knowledge and insight into the possibilities of gilding for paintings, a variety of samples, and a sound basis for creative development in your own painting practice. You will have explored gilding techniques, discovered new materials, and learned new skills to incorporate into your future work.

### LEVEL: SUITABLE FOR ALL

A subject focused course that is delivered to suit any level of experience from beginner to advanced practitioner. A structured start is followed by guided independent practice.

### *Is there anything a potential student needs to be able to do to succeed on this course?*

A level of understanding of using paint systems in any media would be an advantage. Gilding methods are specific to different paint media, so a wider experience of paint handling would give greater flexibility on the day, but beginners will be inspired too: all are welcome.

### ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Following graduation in Conservation from Brighton and the City and Guilds of London Art School, studying in Italy and Germany, Judy established her reputation working on gilding, japanning, polychrome and period paint. She is a Churchill Fellow, and 2015 winner of the Lord Balfour of Burleigh Award for Excellence in Craftsmanship.

Judy is passionate about her work, and her infectious enthusiasm has led her to teach in many institutions. Her life's-work portfolio is impressive, and includes work for National Trust, English Heritage, Royal Collections, Globe theatre, Churches and Cathedrals, Guildhall Art Gallery and numerous private clients.

### **TIMETABLE:**

9.00–9.15am	Registration and coffee
9.15am	Morning classes
10.30am	Coffee
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.30pm	Tea
5.00pm	Classes finish

### **REQUIRED PREPARATION:**

Please bring several dry pieces of work in any medium you choose on which to experiment – oil, acrylic, watercolour, mixed media, etc – any dry surface can take gold! These can be a combination of primed, underpainted, finished or rough-worked.

Also bring small samples of supports on which you would like to work eg. sized/primed canvas, khadi paper, watercolour papers, card, wooden or MDF panels etc. You will be working on the pieces you bring, whether painted or not, so it will be an advantage to come well stocked with as many pieces as you might need on the day.

If you are a complete beginner and have no paintings to bring, you can work on materials you can buy from the College Shop.

Please bring your current sketch-book and any sketch-books containing areas to work on.

Do bring any images, or memories(!) of gilding in paintings you have seen in the past – they may inform your current experiments.

### **MATERIALS FOR YOUR COURSE:**

We have a generously stocked craft shop, which opens daily from 8.30am–2pm.

#### **Materials included in the course fee:**

The course fee includes the cost of gilding materials shared amongst the group and most materials required for the projects, including one sheet of transfer leaf gold each, and sundry gilding and gesso materials (whiting, rabbitskin glue, gold size). You may choose to buy further gold from the College Shop – transfer or loose leaf varies in price, costing up to £23/book of 25 leaves (prices vary).

The College will provide all gilding tools/equipment for use during the day.

#### **Available from the Shop:**

A variety of brushes – e.g. small round sables (sizes 0 upwards!), flat ½" nylon, No 4, 6 or 8 squirrel Japan gold size

Surfaces – Khadi paper, heavy water colour paper, sketch books

Palettes

Solvents (methylated and white spirit)

Gold leaf (transfer and loose)

White gold (a mixture of gold and silver leaf)

A wide variety of paints of different media and varnishes

Acrylic paints

#### **Please bring any of the above, if you have them, and in addition:**

A small selection of your chosen paints (acrylics, gouache, water colours – oil will not dry on the day, but may be used for tests)

Your painting equipment, including a selection of your brushes – synthetic or natural, and palette (ceramic (welled) or paper plates, to contain liquid – not tear-off pad)

Apron

Note book and pencil

Portfolio to transport work

Don't forget your painting samples to work on! (see above, in 'Preparation')

**The tutor will bring:**

Rabbitskin glue and whiting, prepared gesso, gin for gilding size water, materials for demonstrations and tests, a selection of further colours of precious metal leaf (if used, to be paid individually to the tutor), gesso mugs for student use, cotton wool, sundry experimental gilding media and resins, gessoed MDF sample boards.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY:**

The tutor instructs students in health and safety issues relevant to this course. There are no health and safety restrictions on access to this studio/teaching space in the absence of the tutor. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.