

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

WE6590 JAPANNING: WESTERN LACQUERWORK FOR BEGINNERS

Tutor: JUDY WETHERALL

Dates: WEEKEND FRIDAY 18 NOVEMBER – SUNDAY 20 NOVEMBER

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

Discover and explore the beauty of this esoteric decorative-art. Historic and innovative alternative methods and materials will be used to japan a pencil box, applying your chosen design in pure gold leaf. Other exciting period and experimental modern techniques are introduced to whet your appetite for further practice on samples.

The technique of 'japanning' surfaces has a long and fascinating past. True Eastern 'urushi' lacquer-work intrigued Europeans when it arrived here in the 16th century. The japanning technique developed when western craftsmen tried to emulate the beauty of real Eastern lacquer-work, but using Western materials. Polished, coloured surfaces with over-laid gilded designs were originally fashionable on long case clocks, boxes, mirror frames and furniture, and japanning has remained in use ever since, in various period interpretations.

Within the drying-time constraints of this two-day course, we shall use modern materials to work on gesso-prepared pencil-box surfaces, as well as sample boards, echoing traditional methods of producing japanned surfaces. You will be guided through all methods and techniques, including gesso making; preparation; colour application; use of raised decoration; gilding and subsequent design decoration, to produce a beautiful japanned pencil box and some smaller sample panels.

You should expect to complete the pencil-box project and several small samples, and come away with the revelation of new discoveries and skills, a life-enriching West Dean experience, and a new passion for japanning!

A PowerPoint talk and group demonstrations will introduce the methods and materials used within japanning's historic context, but the emphasis will be on the practical. Individual tuition is core to the subject, and is given throughout. A look at some examples of japanning in the house may be arranged if possible.

A small selection of design and historical facsimile books will be available, but you are also free to experiment with your own creative designs if you prefer.

Please note: The first evening session is an **essential** part of the course, so please ensure you attend.

LEVEL: BEGINNERS/INTERMEDIATE

For those with little or no experience and for those who have taken a related course. Suited to those who would like a structured introduction to a subject, with further building of skills to work towards independent practice.

The course is aimed at beginners, but those with related experience may find this course useful to build on existing skills. Creative artists, furniture craftsmen and other interested practitioners (perhaps jewellers!) may find this helpful to expand skills.

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Following graduation in Conservation from Brighton and the City and Guilds of London Art School, Judy studied in Italy and Germany. She 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. She 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:

Arrival day: Friday 18 November

From 4.00pm	Arrival for residential students
6.45pm	Non-residential students please arrive by 6.45pm for welcome chat and dinner
7.00pm	Dinner
8.00pm–9.00pm	First teaching session – attendance is an essential part of the course. Introduction, a discussion on techniques, applications and expectations and, if time, some practical work.

Other days: Saturday 19 November

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.30pm	Tea
4.00pm	Afternoon classes continue
5.00pm	Classes finish
From 6.30pm	Dinner
8.00pm	Evening working: workshops are available up to 10pm for those wishing to work on providing this has been discussed with the tutor. These sessions are untutored

Departure day: Sunday 20 November

(Residential students to vacate rooms by 10am)

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.00pm	Classes finish
3.30pm	Tea then departure

REQUIRED PREPARATION:

Do bring any designs you may have – this is not obligatory as design books will be available during the course, but you may wish to create your own designs.

MATERIALS FOR YOUR COURSE:

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

For any materials you need to purchase from the shop, we suggest you do so during the first morning of your course, after having discussed with your tutor.

Materials included in the course fee:

On this course, the college/tutor will supply most of the materials, included in the fee. This includes the pencil box to be japanned, glue size, whiting and materials used to silk and pre-gesso to prepare the boxes specifically for the course; small MDF sample pieces; course materials shared amongst the group (including the japanning medium; gold size; solvents; small amounts of paint for toning); one sheet each of transfer-leaf gold).

All gilding tools and equipment will be provided by the college for use during the course.

Available from the Shop:

Staedler permanent lumocolor marker, super fine ('S') in black
Selection of brushes (small round sable size 1; $\frac{3}{4}$ " or 1" flat synthetic - nylon or similar)
Gold leaf – transfer or loose
Silicon carbide abrasive papers (not wet-and-dry): 180, 320, 500 or similar
Chosen colours of acrylic paints (e.g. black, vermilion/cadmium red)
Japan gold size
'Tracedown' or similar, design transfer paper (red, white, yellow or blue)
'Greygate' plastic polish

Please bring any of the above if you already have them, AND IN ADDITION:

Packing material for your box and samples (fresh surfaces are vulnerable)
A few small glass jars
Apron

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.