

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

SWE07489 GILDING FOR PAINTERS

Tutor: JUDY WETHERALL

Dates: WEEKEND FRIDAY 1 DECEMBER – SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER

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 – gesso on wood (egg tempera panels) and flexible supports – canvas, papers.

Gilding materials and techniques which you will explore include:

Preparing surfaces – making gesso, the perfect consistency for rabbit skin glue, applying layers and readying surfaces

Incorporating non-traditional materials – applying gilding across a variety of painting supports including wood and paper, and with different media including acrylics, watercolour or gouache

Using metal leaf (gold and other) to gild on the painted and un-painted surfaces you bring

Experimenting with gilding to produce samples as you explore the technique and process that will inform your work for future use

The tutor will provide demonstrations and talks, you will work on the paintings and supports you 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.

By the end of the course you will have gained knowledge and insight into the possibilities of gilding for paintings, produced a variety of samples, and have 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:

Arrival day: Friday 1 December

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 – <u>attendance is essential</u> . Introduction to course, and scoping the practical.

Other days: Saturday 2 December

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 3 December

(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:

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.

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:

Gilding materials shared amongst the group, excluding gold leaf.

Some materials required for the projects, including sundry gilding and gesso materials (whiting, rabbitskin glue, gin for gilding size water, prepared gesso, resins, Japan gold-size).

Surfaces prepared by the tutor to practice your technique.

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 (methyated and white spirit)

White gold (a mixture of gold and silver leaf)

A wide variety of paints of different media and varnishes

Acrylic paints

Note book and pencil

Painting equipment: brushes – synthetic or natural

Portfolio to transport work

Gold and metal leaf:

You buy gold from the College Shop – transfer or loose leaf varies in price, costing up to £23/book of 25 leaves (prices vary).

You can bring your own gold leaf – loose leaf or transfer, and can contact the tutor for suppliers if preferred: Judith@thewetheralls.org.uk

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) and brushes

Palette – ceramic (welled) or paper plates, to contain liquid – not a tear-off pad

Apron

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

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.