



VENEZ À LA RENCONTRE DES ARTISANS

Les Rencontres
particulières



ATELIER HUBER : LEAF GILDING

As part of *Groupama Immobilier's Special Encounters* cycle, which introduces the company's employees to the work of men and women who practice a wide variety of crafts, we went to the Atelier Huber gilding workshop in the 11th arrondissement of Paris, at the back of a courtyard on rue de Charonne. It is one of the last crafts workshops in the Faubourg Saint-Antoine area.



Laurent Huber and Jean-Paul Boulcourt founded the atelier in 1988. The following year, they regilded the Génie de la liberté statue that balances atop the July Column in the centre of Place de la Bastille, establishing their workshop's reputation. This contract rewarded more than ten years of training: three years as apprentices and eight years under various master gilders.

They restore frames, antique armchairs and decorative objects. They also work with artists – gilding their objects, sculptures and furniture – and decorators on projects around the world.

During our visit, Jean-Paul Boulcourt told us about his profession. He explained about gilding and some of the 25 operations required to apply gold leaf on an object.



© Eric Dexheimer

We watched his assistant affix gold leaf.



An 8 x 8 cm gold leaf in its booklet. © Eric Dexheimer



Feuilles d'or sur le coussin à dorer dans une main, couteau à dorer dans l'autre. © Eric Dexheimer



© Eric Dexheimer



Applying the gold leaf with the gilder's tip. © Eric Dexheimer



© Eric Dexheimer



Soft brushing. © Eric Dexheimer

There is also platinum, silver, aluminium and palladium leaf. And there's a wide range of patina effects to complete the finishing touches.

After producing a slight erosion on the surface of the gilding, the operation aims to make background colours reappear, so that shades of ochre, red, brown and even black can be seen.



Gold leaf colour guide. © Eric Dexheimer



Finishing tools: agate burnishers for every situation and profile.
© Eric Dexheimer



SOME OF ATELIER HUBER'S WORKS

The ceiling of the Parly 2 - Le Chesnay shopping centre (Greater Paris). © Atelier Huber



Home decoration: gilded ceiling and mouldings with various shades of gold. © Atelier Huber



Gilded Christ © Atelier Huber

Gilding of a bear sculpture. © Atelier Huber



Antique frame restoration. © Atelier Huber



Regilding of an armchair. © Atelier Huber



Sculpture restoration: Le génie de la Liberté, place de la Bastille. © Atelier Huber



Furniture gilding. © Atelier Huber



Contemporary frame gilding © Atelier Huber

More on <http://www.atelier-huber.fr/> .
Follow the Atelier Huber gilding workshop on [facebook](#).

Groupama Immobilier wishes to thank Vianney de Seze – craftsmen's agent – furniture production.
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