

Beginner's Icon Workshop
taught by Irene Perez-Omer

*General information:

This six-day beginner's workshop involves the study of the Byzantine Russian tradition of icon writing, which reached its height in the XV-XVI centuries. The students will write an icon in the ancient medium of egg-tempera using the horizontal-floating technique. This multilayered process will be presented along with the theological meaning of each step and the rich symbolic associations of the natural materials used. This course also includes an explanation on preparing the board, the transferring and engraving of the Image, applying bole, gilding, and the fixing of the Image with oil. Previous artistic experience is not necessary.

*Technical contents of the workshop include:

- Explanation of the preparation of the board
- Transferring and engraving the image
- Application of bole (gilding clay), gilding and burnishing
- Initial layer of color (roskrish and sankir)
- Drawing the dark lines of the pattern
- Application of first highlights and first float
- Application of second highlights and second float
- Application of third highlights and third float
- Redrawing of the lines
- Details, naming the icon
- Application of the final highlights (ozhivki)
- Demonstration or explanation of the final oil application (olipha)
- Discussion or questions if time allows

*Conditions and terms for the coordinator:

1. Tuition fee: \$380 per student for a 36 hr. workshop (6 days, 6 hr./day)
2. Art supplies fee: \$135 per student (includes prepared 9 1/2X 12 1/2 in. gesso board, palette, three brushes, gilding clay, 4 pieces of gold leaf, and all necessary pigments and tools.)
3. Assistant's fee: \$500 (if more than 15 students enroll)
4. Transportation by plane or rental car (if applicable) and housing (for two if an assistant is required.)
5. Minimum paying participants: 10 (maximum 18.)
6. The coordinator must contact the instructor 4 weeks prior to the beginning of the workshop and inform her of the number of participants. The instructor must be informed then how many sets of brushes will be needed. The boards need to be ordered by the coordinator and should be shipped directly to the coordinator's

address in order to save in shipping costs. To order boards please contact the instructor who will give you the right size boards to order and the website to order from.

7. Tuition is free for the coordinator and any money left over after the expenses and teaching fee are paid can be kept by the coordinator. The coordinator still needs to pay for his/her supplies.

8. Well-lit studio space with tables and chairs for students and instructor. It needs to remain accessible for a few hours past the regular six hours of class for students to be able to catch up daily, if needed.

9. The following materials need to be provided in class: 8 oz. styrofoam or plastic cups to mix pigments in, paper towels, kleenex, two dozen eggs (preferably organic, from free-range hens, or duck/goose eggs), dry white wine to mix with egg yolks and 1 gallon distilled water.

10. Please provide the instructor with a mailing list containing the names and addresses of the participants of the workshop.

11. All students (including the coordinator) must read, sign and date the toxicity statement provided to them. All of these signed statements must be submitted to the instructor on the first day of class.