

Introduction to Icon Painting in Egg Tempera: Beginning Project Classes

The Archangel Gabriel—February 2024

The Theotokos—July 2024

Christ The Bridegroom—February 2025

The Archangel Michael, Warrior—July 2025



*****Prerequisite: Paint Mixing & Pigments Class*****

Each of the beginning projects (a series of 10 classes each) is designed to introduce students to the experience of painting an icon in accord with the iconographic style of the Prosopon School of Iconology. These classes are recommended for students who have never painted an icon and for students who have taken live Prosopon workshops but who have never painted an icon on their own, mixing their own paint. In order to participate in this class, students must be able to prepare their own egg mixture and mix their own paint as instructed in our introductory class *Paint Mixing and Pigments*. ***Therefore, the three-day Paint Mixing & Pigments Class is a prerequisite for taking these project classes.***

Over the course of ten weekly 4-hour sessions (2 hours in the morning, 2 hours in the afternoon) students will be guided through all the steps of painting an icon. Classes are held on **Saturdays** and are recorded for those who cannot attend the live Zoom class. In addition to the ten Saturday classes, students also may attend weekly **Tuesday** critique sessions where they receive individual advice about their work. Tuesday sessions are at 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm Central Time.

The beginning projects are painted on 6" x 9" rectangular icon boards and are pictured above. The **Archangel Michael** is the great warrior angel, the leader of God's heavenly hosts. The **Archangel Gabriel** is best known as God's messenger to humankind, bringing the good news of the birth of Christ. The Blessed Virgin Mary is revered as the Mother of God and is known in the Eastern Church as the **Theotokos**. The fourth beginning project is an icon of Christ at his Passion, with the crown of thorns—known as **The Bridegroom**. Each of these projects is a sacred icon, painted with prayer and used for prayer. When placed together, the Archangel Gabriel and Our Lady form an Annunciation diptych, reminding us of Mary's words, "Be it done unto me according to Thy will." Students may begin with any project in the series, and they may choose to continue to reinforce their learning by continuing with the others.

The focus in all these classes is on the mastery of the basic techniques of the icon painting process, which will enable the student later to paint more complex images. These beginning images have been specifically designed to focus on painting the Byzantine face and basic garments. Each introduces and teaches line work and stroke work, the application of the basecoat layer (roskrish), applying the highlights in multiple layers, veiling the paint with floating, and painting the final details. No previous painting experience is necessary to enroll in these classes, other than taking our Paint Mixing class as stated above.

On the day before each class, students will receive by email both written text instructions and color photographs of the work to be introduced in the class the next day. During the class the instructor will review the text instructions, answer questions, and demonstrate the work. Students may either paint along with the instructor or simply watch the demonstrations. On the day following each class, the students will receive a link to the Zoom recording of the class, which they may access at their convenience for review and reinforcement. These recordings will remain accessible for at least three months after the final day of the series of classes.

Cost of the class is \$495.00. This cost includes a 6"x8" icon board and a 4" claybord. **First-time students must purchase a kit of basic icon painting supplies (\$60.00) that will be used in all future classes: two fine-quality artists' brushes, a plastic palette, and other specialty supplies for icon painting. This kit does not include the pigments, which the student must purchase separately.** For those students who do not have pigments, we recommend purchasing one of our pigment kits. This is the most economical way to acquire a variety of pigments. Our standard pigment kit is the best value, but the smaller basic pigment kit is more economical and contains all the pigments needed to complete the beginning projects.

In addition to purchasing the pigments, students must also purchase a few other supplies, including a compass with a painting tip. A list of these supplies and sources to purchase them, along with a class schedule, will be provided upon registration for the class.

Register for this workshop either electronically or by mail. Cost of the class, including the icon board, is \$495.00, plus \$60 basic kit for first-time students. Deadline for registration is two weeks before the beginning date of the class.

- **To register electronically**, email Faye Drobnic at steicon@aol.com. Please include your full name and your mailing address and the name of the class, and indicate if you are a first-time student. If you wish to purchase a pigment kit, please indicate which kit you want, and the cost of the pigment kit will be included in the invoice. Shipping cost of pigment kit and workshop materials can be combined. You will be emailed an invoice through PayPal, which you can pay with any credit card. Registration is complete upon receipt of your payment.
- **To register by mail**, please first email Faye Drobnic at steicon@aol.com, following the procedure indicated above. I will email you an invoice. You may then mail your check to Faye Drobnic, 121 Acacia Drive, Lafayette, LA 70508. Registration is complete upon receipt of your check.