

Simes Studios Applied Artistry



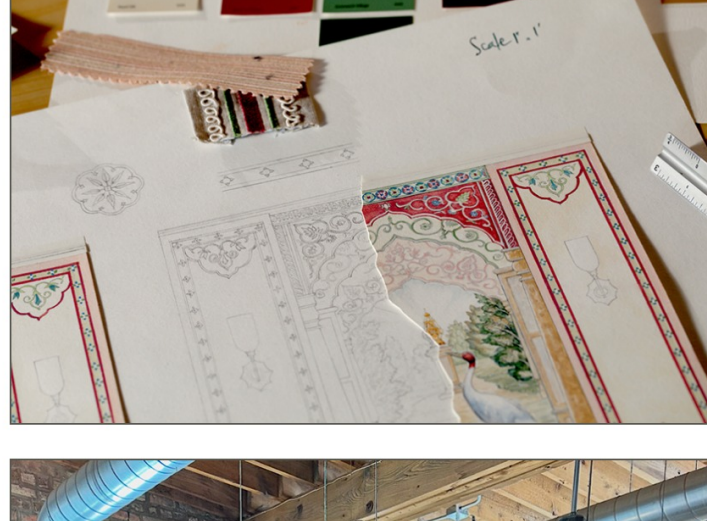
With Lauren Coburn Interior Architecture + Design

GLOW!

Some projects stop you mid-process and remind you why you do this work. This églomisé fireplace, installed in a landmark building downtown, has been one of those pieces.

Five custom beveled Eglomise panels wrap the existing cast glass surround in a delicate chinoiserie-inspired scene - with cranes, blooming flowers, and swaying bamboo - hand painted in artist oils with the kind of fine detail that rewards a closer look.

What gives the piece its signature luminosity is what lies behind the painting: 23 karat Moon Gold leaf, perfectly gilded behind the hand-painted foreground figures and landscape. The gold doesn't just reflect light - it seems to generate it, casting a warm, living glow that compliments beautifully the flicker of a fire.



With: Top Right: NCM Interiors / Photos by Heather Baigelman Bottom Left: PYR Architects

Art to Art

These hand-painted renderings are a small selection drawn from hundreds our studio has produced as preliminary work for murals and applied arts in residential interiors - walls, ceilings, and floors alike. Each begins not as a finished image but as a working drawing: the product of sustained conversation among designer, architect, and client to arrive at a scheme that is genuinely bespoke to the space and the people who will live with it.

Every commission starts as someone's story, and our job is to give it order, proportion, and form. Once the pencil drawing is complete we apply color in watercolor or casein paint, a form of milk paint, resolving palette, composition, scale, and ornamental detail before a brush ever touches the walls.

Arriving at that resolution takes dedicated research: study of historical precedent and period-appropriate motifs, local flora or fauna, ambient color and materials, and close attention to how a given design or scene will read at full architectural scale.

Though intended as tools of preparation, many of these renderings have taken on a life of their own. Clients frequently respond to them as artworks in their own right, and a number have asked to have them framed and hung - a compliment we've come to appreciate: the blueprint outliving its own purpose, admired simply for the beauty and craft it carries on its own terms.

A Misty, Moody and Magical Mural



Some rooms call for drama. Others ask for something quieter - a backdrop that breathes, that shifts with the light, that layers the room with quiet, poetic atmosphere. This soft, painterly landscape, created for a great room in a Florida residence, does exactly that. Distant and foreground trees dissolve into one another through a limited palette of cream, smoky blues, sage greens and umbers, creating a composition that is at once ethereal and grounding.

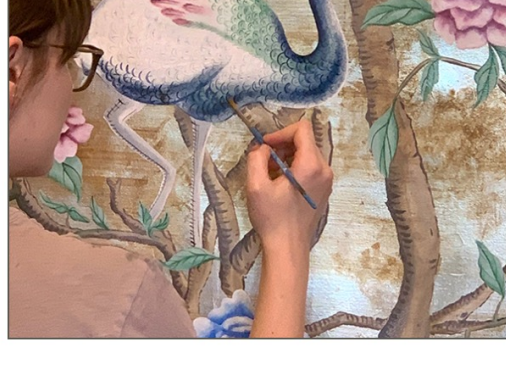
Whether the room is set for an intimate dinner or a lively gathering, the mural holds it all with effortless grace.

The work was painted in our studio on canvas in artist oils, finished with a lightly antique varnish. Executed in ten panels, the installation was completed on site in just two days, with no visible seams. The vaulted ceiling was painted on location to flawlessly blend with the walls - reading as one continuous composition. As always, one or more of our artists was present throughout installation to refine and touch up, ensuring the work arrives on the wall exactly as it left the studio.

If you have a space that's waiting for its moment, we'd love to help you find it. *Let us bring your next mural idea to life!*

The Importance of Human Connection in a World of AI AN ARTISAN'S PERSPECTIVE

An AI-generated image is useful to generate a spark but it can never be mistaken for the flame itself. What is most important is what happens next.



The story below was written by Cindy for the recent DLN Quarterly Issue 9 titled Human Touch

For the first time, a prospective client came to our studio recently with an AI-generated rendering of a mural for her dining room. It was soft, collage-like, and somewhat confusing. I'm sure many designers and architects can relate. It's a "what do I do with this" moment. I asked her what inspired the image, what prompts or story were behind it. Talking it through together, with patience, her visual did exactly what it should have done: It opened a deeper conversation.

In truth, this is not an entirely new moment for us. Designers have come to our studio for years with a swatch of wallpaper, a photo, or a mood board pinned together from a dozen sources of inspiration. These are never blueprints to be copied, they are starting points or fragments of feelings that tell us what a client may respond to. An AI-generated image is becoming the newest member of that family: useful to generate a spark but it can never be mistaken for the flame itself.

What is most important is what happens next: the human exchange that turns inspiration into an art piece or custom finish. That requires reading a designer or client's face as an idea lands-or doesn't. It's watching what they linger over when they walk through our studio and run their hands across burnished plaster samples, admire gilded moldings, or study light-filled eglomise. It's seeing their reaction to previous watercolor renderings pointed over many years of work. Clients reveal what they actually dream of little by little as the conversation evolves. It's that kind of reading-an intuitive, often wordless exchange-that is still entirely human.

It also means going to their space itself, to measure not just the walls but also to check the light: how does it move across a dining room in later afternoon, or how the morning sun would reflect across an eglomise piece to make it come alive. We look at the furniture placement, the proportions, other artwork placed in the room, and, of course, how the family will live in the room.

That knowledge is what allows us to build in the details that makes an art piece or surface truly special: a personal motif folded quietly into a mural, a passage of gilding that draws the eye to an architectural detail worth celebrating, a vertical sweep of a custom finish that lifts a low ceiling and changes how a whole room feels. These choices come from assembling dozens of small human observations into one coherent answer, the same way that the pieces of a puzzle can only become a picture once they're all in place.

This is also, quite simply, the part of our work I love most. Sitting across from a designer and client, seeing their enthusiasm and their ideas take shape in real conversation, is so much more alive and definitely more fun than pulling images off of a screen, where we all already spend too much time.

The AI rendering that the client brought in will be long forgotten by the time the project is finished: What remains is something built together, shaped by human connection for a unique home and personal life. That collaboration, more than any algorithm, is what allows the work to truly delight.

We'd love to work with
you on your next project!



Happy Fall!
Cindy & Jorge



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Applied Artistry

Murals - Eglomise - Custom Finishes - Gilding - Venetian Plaster - Painted Floors and Furniture

For pricing or more information
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