

The Art Of Water Gilding



Wood

The profile shape is milled from premium quality kiln dried wood.



Leaf

The clay is dampened with water, and thin sheets of gold metal leaf are laid over the profile, with each piece slightly overlapping.



Gesso

After the profile shape is milled, several layers of gesso primer are extruded over the wood profile to create a smooth surface.



Distress

Pumice powder and steel wool are used to gently scratch the surface, revealing subtle tones of the red clay.



Compo

A soft dough-like material is embossed from a carved steel mold, then carefully laid by hand to add ornamentation to the profile.



Burnish

An agate stone is used to burnish (polish) the leaf to a luminous sheen. This highly burnished sheen and the overlap leaf lines distinguish the quality and beauty of handcrafted water gilded mouldings.



Clay

Three coats of liquid clay, or bole, are brushed over the compo and gesso to prepare the surface for gilding with water.



Patina

A few coats of varnish are applied to protect the leaf, and a liquid patina is added as a soft, matte antiquing to accent the burnished gold.