

Iconography Retreat

with Anna Mycyk and Gisele Bauche

Dates: Monday May 27 - Friday May 31, 2019

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Cost: Commuter: \$585 – includes lunch

Live-In: \$69/night – bed and breakfast; \$15/supper

Fees include: materials, pigments, 23kt gold leaf on bole.

Required: Gesso wood panel board. Boards can be purchased at cost (\$110-\$130) through Queen's House.

Participants are responsible for their own brushes.

Detail: *An icon is like a window into eternity.*

This retreat will introduce participants into the ancient Christian tradition of icon writing. During this prayerful five day retreat the practice of meditation and contemplation will inform our work in writing an icon. You will learn the technique of writing an icon. Using a gesso wood panel board, egg tempera, natural pigments and gilding with gold leaf, you will write your own icon. The Icon with Saint Nicholas, the Wonder Worker will be written at the 2019 May Retreat.

This retreat will include daily prayer, demonstrations, theological reflections and group sharing. Participants will also receive individual instruction with the retreat leaders. It is not necessary for participants to come with a background in art or theology - all are most welcome.

Icons offer spiritual nourishment, give us an opportunity to learn about ourselves and bring us closer to God.

The word "icon" comes from the Greek word "eikon" which means "image." Images are one of God's ways of revealing God's Self to us, and icons are manifestations of that divine revelation. Through icons we can access the mystery of the invisible. "Christ is the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation, for in him all things on earth and heaven were created, things visible and invisible." (Col 1:15-20)

In icons the world is made new by the light of God's Presence with their glowing colours and graceful lines. In writing an icon one enters into "the inner room of prayer, bringing us closer to the heart of God." Iconography is a practice of meditation and contemplation.

Facilitators:

Creativity in visual and tactile media began for **Anna Mycyk** in her childhood years in England where she discovered the joy of working in clay and with pencil and paper. Immigration to Canada in 1963 blessed her with exposure to the iconographic tradition integral to the churches of her community.

Her life-long involvement in visual arts included studies at the Ontario College of Art in graphic art and design together with drawing and painting. After graduation, Anna worked in design and art direction in both public and private sectors.

The highlight of a postgraduate trip to Europe was an extended visit to the Byzantine Museum in Athens which served to affirm Anna's love of iconography.

After a family move to Ottawa, she taught at the Ottawa School of Art, instructing adult and children's classes in drawing and painting. She established a private studio and exhibited locally. Ever-present and sustaining, Iconography has profoundly influenced her aesthetic and evolving practice. Her work has been nurtured through study and travel to churches, monasteries and museums in Canada, Greece, Ukraine, Italy, Cyprus, Turkey, Russia and the USA.

Anna continues to participate in iconography workshops. Her instructors include Marianna Savaryn, Vera Senchuk, Dmitri Andrejev, Father Nazari Polataiko, Tatiana Berestova, Dmitrii Berestov and Vladislav Andrejev.

As a Saskatoon based iconographer, Anna maintains a private studio and instructs in ongoing iconography workshops and retreats in collaboration with Giselle Bauche.

Anna's work in iconography is commissioned privately and for Saint George's Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral in Saskatoon.

After receiving her Degree in Theology and studying Art, **Gisele Bauche** combined her interests in Theology, Spirituality and Art by authoring the book, *"Giving Glory to God: Reflections of an Artist."* Gisele deeply appreciates that icons are written to lead us into the inner room of prayer and bring us closer to the heart of God. She apprenticed with Russian Icon Master Vladislav Andreyev to learn the ancient tradition of iconography and has been assisting Anna Mycyk in offering retreats and workshops. Her religious art has been featured in the Catholic Extension Society's Calendar of Canada, Augsburg Fortress and Novalis.

Her religious art can be found on her website: www.spiritualityandart.ca

To register: please contact Queen's House:

- Phone: 306-242-1916 or
- Email: receptionist@queenshouse.org