

Iconography Retreat

with Anna Mycyk and Gisele Bauche

Dates: Monday May 25 - Friday May 29, 2020

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Cost: Commuter: \$585 – includes lunch

Live-In: \$70/night – bed and breakfast; \$16/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.

Registration limited to 10 participants - **Registration deadline: May 19, 2020**

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 'St. Andrew, the First Called' will be written at the 2020 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:

The visual arts have been a lifelong creative means of expression for **Anna Mycyk**. Simple materials such as clay, pencil and paper, were her media in her childhood in England and continue to have a place in her practice of iconography today, together with gold and precious pigments. Immigration to Canada in 1963 blessed her with exposure to the iconography integral to the church traditions of her community.

Her formal studies at the Ontario College of Art were followed by work in graphic design and art direction. A 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 both, 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 Andreyev, Father Nazari Polataiko, Tatiana Berestova, Dmitrii Berestov and Vladislav Andreyev.

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, as well as for Saint George's Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral in Saskatoon, and most recently for the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection in Kyiv, Ukraine.

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