



Salon

Written and photographed by: Cat Faust

Brugge, Belgium

The International Conference of Decorative Painters, also known as the Salon, is an invitation-only gathering of dedicated decorative painters from around the world, who come together to exhibit their work and discuss techniques, products, and information. Members are decorative artists from respected schools or studios who have a background in



▲ Brugge, Belgium. As it was, as it is.



▲ Ina Marx demonstrating a traditional form of Faux bois or woodgraining



decorative painting and are highly respected amongst their peers.

The Salon enhances communication between members from different countries by offering an opportunity to follow demonstrations and lectures of famous decorative artisans. Overall, the Salon helps to promote interest in this ancient and unique craft. One of the ambitions of the Salon is to encourage gifted painters and craftsmen to aspire to the high level of integrity, commitment and discipline required by a craft that originated



Yannick Guegan displaying his masterpiece



before the Egyptians. Salon days are meant for decorators and teachers, as well as students to learn, participate, demonstrate and communicate freely. Sharing this wealth of information has given birth to many friendships and

strengthened ties with other artists from all over the world.

The history of the Salon dates back to the early 1990s when a modest international gathering took place in

Kuurne, Belgium. It was initiated by Alfred Marrecau, a noted Grand Master, and was sponsored by the Belgium Independent Painters Society.

In March 1996, Yannick Guegan expanded the concept of an international gathering by inviting the leaders in the decorative world to visit his studio and school in Quimiac, France. This gathering was considered to be a complete celebration of decorative art. Alfred Marrecau, at 86 years old, attended the event, and, of course, was delighted to see his initiative on an even grander scale. Quimiac, Joris Arts and J.Berghuis Jr. continued the gathering and planned the following year. The Dutch Employers Union (FOSAG), hosted a gathering in Utrecht, The Netherlands. These professional gatherings became known as the Salon. The first



Nicola Vigni's Italian Masterpiece



American gathering was held in Alexandria, Virginia.

(Preceding copy courtesy of Salonforever website)

Bruges, the best-preserved medieval city in Belgium, was an ideal setting for the 2003 International Conference of Decorative Painters. Steeped in centuries old architecture and the overall sense of history in this beautiful European town, the members were filled with artistic inspiration. The SALON continues as a source of learning and experience for decorative artisans.

Faux Effects International, Inc. was one of the sponsors for this spectacular event and participated by demonstrating the use of their Venetian Gem™ Plasters, Custom Art Imprints™ and Old World Fresco™ systems alongside of the world's most accomplished and renowned decorative artisans.

Other distinguished artisans whose works were on display at SALON 2003 were Benny Carlsson, Yannick Guegan, Nicola Vignini, Sean Crosby,

*The SALON
started with a light
hearted touch...*

Day 1:

Derby style hats were given to each participant as they arrived with instructions to adorn them with their own unique style of artistry. The evening gathering was held at one of Belgium's oldest working breweries, Brouweru Taverne. A tour was given, samplings of the brewery's finest ales were offered, medieval games were played and dinner was served

Days 2 & 3:

Demonstrations and lectures were scheduled throughout the SALON each day. The evenings of days 2 & 3, participants were free to tour the beautiful city by night.

Day 4.

Closing: Participants broke down their stations and then rushed to complete the derbies to wear and display at the closing night gala. An elegant Belgian church was the backdrop for the closing night ceremony. The manifest for the next SALON was given to Benny Carlsson of Oslo, Norway. A wonderful dinner and dance closed the event.





Large scale faux bois demonstration

Sean Crosby and Nicola Vignini discussing product with fellow Salon participant



Jodie Baldanza discusses a fresco finish with Salon 2003 host Curd Vercruyse



Ina Marx, Bob Marx, Pierre Finkelstein, Ron Gordon, Pascal Amblard, Patrick Kirwin, Tommy Orbing, Cynthia Borman, George Zaffie, Matti Carlsson and Pascal Rodriguez. They brought to the prestigious SALON a worldwide understanding of the art of faux and decorative painting.



▲ Cynthia Borman demonstrates classical artistry



Natural aging in a Belgian cathedral ▲

Salon 2003 participants ▼



Gordon Kio
1958-2003
Official SALON
photographer and
accomplished
artisan. One of
Gordon's
photographs was
the chosen cover
of the 2003
Profiles In
Finishing
Magazine.

