

Design of the Month

By Abby Fosco



Showcasing History: Framing an Astronaut's Space Medal of Honor

In 1977, Ed White III was presented with the Congressional Space Medal of Honor. The award was received in his father's name for America's first Extravehicular activity (EVA) and for Apollo 1—"a tribute to one of America's foremost space pioneers." To receive such a prestigious award, an astronaut must reach a level of "extraordinary accomplishment" while partaking in a legitimate space flight under NASA authority. With the award memorabilia as inspiration, a custom shadowbox design was the ideal way to showcase this honorable moment in history.

The shadowbox was designed by Chris Bath for a client that is an inventor and entrepreneur. The client is also an avid collector of historical documents, artifacts, and memorabilia.

In the client's home, he has an expansive personal library, which was built and created to showcase his eclectic collection of historical treasures. This project would possibly be kept and showcased in his client's personal library, so Bath knew a very unique and specialized design was in order.

"It all came to me in a case. Within that was the medal itself as well as the pins. He wanted to incorporate all the different pieces, including the box itself," says Bath regarding the objects featured in the shadowbox. In terms of initially crafting the shadowbox design, Bath says he "drew up some sketch possibilities, more standard shadowbox styles. Nothing was quite enough to truly capture



A custom shadowbox design was the ideal way to showcase Ed White III's Congressional Space Medal of Honor, presented to him in the name of his father, a pioneering astronaut. The award memorabilia was matted using suede mats that incorporate the red, white, and blue found in the medals.

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how important the piece is. I started with an acrylic box to allow the medal to be featured with the other objects but also to be showcased in its own unique way.”

The items were matted using suede mats that incorporated the colors within the medals—traditional red, white, and blue. The mats used were: Crescent 7187 Celestial, Crescent 7195 Sapphire, and Bainbridge 4223 Blaze. These mats create cohesion within the objects while allowing each individual object to stand out.

As for displaying the medal, Bath decided to create acrylic rods to elevate the medal above the medal case and pins. This design element adds a special touch to the shadowbox, contributing to the uniqueness of the completed project.

The acrylic rods helped to “create two separate elements, the main focus being the medal itself,” says Bath. “As a separate entity, the monogrammed case and the pins were standout objects on their own. These pieces were accents to the medal.”

With his client’s historical collection in mind, Bath says everything about his design “was approached from an archival standpoint.” The Congressional Medal of Honor is considered the rarest and most prestigious Medal of Honor. With such a monumental piece that holds immense honor and accomplishment, Bath was faced with a challenge to deliver a really special design. With an open mind and creative design approach, his finished result was quite exceptional. **PFM**



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ABC SCHOOL OF PICTURE FRAMING (West Islip, NY) offers a hands-on, 4-day course. One-on-one and advanced classes offered. Visit www.abcsofpictureframing.com or call 800-810-8849.

AMERICAN PICTURE FRAMING ACADEMY 2- and 4-day Basic and Advanced classes feature technical, business and design training. Call 888-840-9605 or visit www.pictureframingschool.com.

ART TO BE FRAMED (Mt. Shasta, CA) is an instructional and educational custom picture framing retreat. One-on-one instruction, beginners through advanced. Visit www.arttobeframed.com or call 530-926-3609.

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE FOR CONSERVATION OF CULTURAL MATERIAL (Victoria, Melbourne) hosts a 3-day symposium on traditional frames by Degas for artists, historians, and conservators. Contact loubradley@bigpond.com.

B.L. HAYMOND SUPPLY (Ukiah, CA) offers hands-on, one-on-one, 2-day Oil Painting Restoration Workshops with an experienced conservator. E-mail: blhaymond-supply@pacific.net or visit www.blhaymondsupply.com or call 707-462-4221.

CHARLES DOUGLAS GILDING STUDIO (Seattle, WA) offers a 3-day intensive in traditional water gilding with an experienced professional. Call: 206-795-8376 or visit www.gildingstudio.com.

COMPLETE FRAMER'S SUPPLY, INC. (Fort Lauderdale, FL). Call 800-330-3263 or 954-581-2444 to register and for class schedule or visit www.completeframers.com.

FRAME TUTOR SCHOOL (Alberta, Canada) offers a 3-week course (90 hours) hands-

on professional training. Weeks 1 & 2 Basic; Week 3: Advanced (Design & Specialties) Call 800-268-0897, e-mail: penny@frametutorschool.com or visit www.frame-tutorschool.com.

GOODISON LECTURE THEATER (London) will host 2-day international conference on the origins of the Auricular style. For information and registration visit www.auricularstyleframes.wordpress.com/about.

JAYENESS MOULDING offers hourly tutoring (3 hour minimum). Call: 206-292-9664 or visit www.jayeness.com.

PRESTIGE FRAMING ACADEMY offers classes. Call 617-285-0855 or visit the website, www.framingacademy.com.

REED'S GOLD LEAF (Nashville, TN) offers 2-3 days Gold Leafing/ Gilding classes by appointment only. One-on-one or max. 2 students. Call Micki Cavanah at 615-294-6113 or send e-mail to rglstudios@bellsouth.net.

SEPP LEAF (New York, NY) offers 1-week traditional water gilding and glass gilding seminar with instructor from Florence, Italy. Visit www.seppleaf.com or call 212-683-2840.

SHUPTRINES GOLD LEAF DESIGNS offers 1-day seminars for artists, professionals/ designers and 2-day gilding and restoration classes. Call: 423-266-4453 or visit www.shuptrines.com.

VALLEY MOULDING & FRAME (N. Hollywood, CA) offers 5-day Basic classes and 1-day advanced class. Visit www.valleymoulding.com or call 818-769-5656.