



Val Damon

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Gilded Venetian Plaster

Premiering in 2008 Val Damon's newest line features gilding, 11 soft colors and Stucco Veneziano, an ancient stuccoed surface coating with a marble dust base similar to modern Venetian Plaster.

Venetian plaster is a relatively modern term used to describe an ancient stuccoed surface coating that dates back more than a thousand years. The art of using this building material was re-discovered in the 1500s, by Andrea Palladio, an architect from Italy, who re-decorated the great villas of Venice by, what this plaster is known locally as, Stucco Veneziano.

The recipe for true Venetian plaster is based on a mix of aged slaked lime, ground marble dust, and pigment. Val's mix is based largely this tradition with 50% world famous Carrara marble with natural, environmentally safe, non-toxic pigments from Provence, France. She uses no synthetic pigments, polymers or pigment binders as are found in commercial mixes.

Soft color is derived from naturally occurring pigments from, some of which have been in use since pre-history. The mix is poured into sterling silver, cured for strength and sealed. This provides a smooth canvas for gilding, the ancient art of applying a thin layer of gold, to a surface. Val uses the highest quality 23 karat patent gold leaf from Germany. Patent gold leaf, also referred to transfer gold leaf, is gold leaf mounted on a special tissue paper by a pressure process. The final product is waxed to create striking and enduring objects of wearable art.

This line was so well received at its first trade show that both the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago and Springs Preserve in Las Vegas (future home of the Nevada State Museum) both placed orders.

*White Carrara marble from Tuscany, Italy has been used since the time of Ancient Rome; the Pantheon and Trajan's Column are constructed of it and many sculptures of the Renaissance, such as Michelangelo's David, were carved from it.

Note to Editors: Additional information and select high-resolution images for publicity only are available by e-mail or on disc, call (718) 382-4620 or e-mail val@valdamon.com.