PS,

What a flash-back to learning how to gold foil my drawings back in Vermont days…egg whites and alum, Strathmore Bristol board, gum Arabic… I've used it all. Commensurate with the middle-ages formulas and methods I was studying at the time I burnished with a tooth rather then a stone but otherwise Mohamed Zakariya and I have a lot in common in our foiling. Of course he has gold foil and I am out but other then that we are like two peas in a pod.

Thanks for sending it to me. Mohamed is truly a man after my own heart. I can't say I am crazy about his work, as professional as it is. Almost too modern for me. I most like Arabic calligraphy from two to three centuries ago. Still though his skill level shows that he is bringing to birth just what he sees in his vision. Undoubtedly he is on the cutting edge of modern Arabic calligraphy and I am behind the times.

Coincidently I just emptied out an old suitcase so I could give it to Vanessa and looked through a sketch book from my first London residency and page after page has lovely gold foiling in it as I practiced for the reliquary sculptures. It is a technique I really liked and miss.

I have read about marbling and admire it, especially Western books from the early 1800s, but never felt I needed to learn how to do it.

Any chance for coffee this weekend? I am probably going to have breakfast with Deb Moffit and her kids Sunday morning. Wish Brittany bon voyage as she heads for Steppenwolf in Chicago. Otherwise free. Could drop down to visit Den Fandrich Sunday afternoon. In some sort of beef with the phone company den cut the wire to his house and through it away.

Jim