



## Tindell's Restoration Schools & Studios

By: DiAnna E. Tindell

DiAnna founded Tindell's Restoration Schools & Studios in Nashville, Tennessee. It is very broad scoped & has expertise in many fields to offer the best of each for restoration services. DiAnna is a member of many international groups & serves actively at regional & annual events. DiAnna has expertise from a Score of years training internationally and has taught many talented students in areas such as Graphic Art & Paper Conservation, Oil Painting & Frames, Crystal & Glass, Pottery, Porcelain, Marble, and many other Mixed Media types. She has restored many objects for museums and rare collections. She is a published columnist in many antique trade papers & magazines and has authored books on restoration. Tindell's Restoration has been featured on HGTV and other educational programs. Her website is a library of useful information & time well spent to view at: [www.TindellsRestorationSchools.com](http://www.TindellsRestorationSchools.com).

### Do It Yourself with Training

It is hard to resist the temptation of considering a "Do It Yourself" project. The goal might be to avoid the high cost, charged by a professional restoration specialist, and the possible delay waiting for its completion. Maybe you have an inventory of damaged collectibles and antiques that just need a little help. Or perhaps your business includes occasional client requests for the repair of something not within your normal services. At first glance, you decide the damage is relatively simple and by doing it yourself should save time or money. So, how many projects actually turn out simple? Maybe the "do it yourself" repair worked, but you still have a few doubts as to just how dependable, compatible, durable or perfect it may remain.

Many projects require more materials than first anticipated and acquiring them to get started can be time consuming. Unfortunately, most damage can vary as to the required



materials and, therefore, it may be costly to purchase different products per project. For example, your first project may be to repair a simple natural wood frame. A second damaged frame also might be wood, but have cut detail in relief, silver accents and a velvet inner stripe. Both frames could have about the same damage, but the second will require additional products to complete. To justify some of the cost to purchase so many different products, it might be assumed that any unused portions will be available for future repairs.. However, many products may have a limited shelf life and can easily expire within a few months.

It is easy to see thus far that more time and cost can be required for each new repair. Additionally, new learning curves require time to overcome with different challenges created from varying repairs. It can be difficult to attempt limiting the variance in the type of repairs. For instance, you may only consider repair for frames. You can narrow that down from all frame types such as wood, plaster, gilded, metal glass, etc. to just wood. Soon, it will be apparent that just "wood" includes all kinds of extra requirements due to variances in types of wood, size, weight, design, age, environmental exposures, and added details in design.

It isn't easy to work on projects without a workspace,



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tools, equipment, adequate lighting and ventilation. This additional requirement should be factored into the overall total time and cost. Eventually, a space may become a permanent compilation of future "do it yourself" projects, used materials, work in progress, anticipated new materials, various tools, small equipment, etc. The end result could be a small workshop.

If the efforts required thus far are not too demanding, the consideration of a restoration specialist may still be ignored. If the need for varied products, materials, tools, equipment, workspace and your time are okay, what else should be considered?

Training in some areas of restoration might be helpful. You do not always need artistic ability to effectuate a minor restore. There are some excellent "How to Guides" and easy "Restoration Kits" available to complete many damaged items to acceptable levels. It is best to use all materials in the same manufacturer recommended compatible product lines. Mixing different manufacturer types may result in adverse reactions.

Training programs can vary from correspondence courses, short workshops, week long programs and private

customized sessions. Try to determine that the information offered is current. You should periodically seek training to keep up with improvements in technique and technology. Always remember, for best results, a test should be completed on a small area first or applied to a "dummy" object of like body type prior to working on that important project.

A few educational areas to research should include techniques for professional cleaning, bonding, reinforcing, making new parts, priming, base coating, accent coatings and final design details. The final finishing details are so important to best match the original surface of the project. Try to get referral information from others that have obtained excellent restoration training to seek out a worthwhile training program.

A "do it yourself" project can be a great experience, but good judgment should be used to evaluate what is best for the damaged object. If that object is fragile, very sentimental or a hazard if not restored well, it would be advisable to acquire the services of a highly skilled restoration specialist. ❖



### Tindell's Restoration Studios

DiAnna Tindell, Master Restoration Specialist  
Restoring Fine Art, Antiques, Collectibles... etc.  
By Appointment Only

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Please feel free to contact us regarding any of our Services & School training programs. We offer a broad spectrum of services with many resources.

Conservation & Restoration Services included but not limited to: Oil Paintings, Frames, Graphic Art & Paper Conservation, Photos, Porcelains, Figurines, Sculptures, Pottery, Faux Finish Designs, Furniture, Crystal, Marble, Alabaster, Ivory, Metals, Silver, Bronze, Hot Glass Flame Working, Venetian Glas, Chandeliers, Outdoor Structures, Customized Conservation Framing, etc...etc...etc..



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