DEMYSTIFYING ACANTHUS
Europe’s Favorite Plant
Jaquelinne de Radonvilliers, OL
Acanthus is a genus of about 30 species of flowering plants in the family Acanthaceae, native to tropical and warm temperate regions, with the highest species diversity in the Mediterranean Basin and Asia.
Through the centuries, Acanthus has become a fan favorite decorative ornament across Europe. Though it’s flowers are beautiful, it’s the leaves that have fascinated the world.
ARCHITECTURE

Temple of Olympian Zeus, Athens, Greece
Column of Dancing Girls, Museum of Delphi c. 330-320 BC

Forum Thermal Baths, Pompeii Italy c. 1st Century BC
10th Century Norse Embroidery, Mammen Denmark

Three princesses of Saxony: Sibylla, Emilia and Sidonia by Lucas Cranach Elder 1472-1553
BIBLE OF BORSO D’ ESTE C. 1413–71

GRADUAL FOR EASTER SUNDAY
GIROLAMO DA CREMONA, C. 1468
Foliage

The foliage one shall first draw with a lead or a point. Then one shall outline the foliage with a pen and with very thin ink or with thin black color. Then one shall polish the foliage with a tooth, so that the color can be applied smoothly, but not too firmly. Then one shall paint it with the colors, one side right and the other side left or reversed, with a brush, namely light red and green, that is to say green or slate green: The two colors belong together, one side light red and the turnover green, as shown here, or one side green and the turn-over light red, as you like. §

Then take dark red color and out-line the light red with the dark red with a brush, so as if you wanted to outline it once again, all around the outside of the red. Then take dark green and outline the green or the slate green with the dark green, the same way as with the red, all around. Then make with a brush and with the dark red