

METRO

CHICAGO

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Tribune photo by Bill Hogan

The gold-leaf covered replica of Nike of Samothrace is the handiwork of gilder Robert Frese.

Gilder's craftsmanship shining like gold

The famous headless Nike of Samothrace has gone golden in the foyer of a new South Loop building.

Standing 8 feet tall on a 7-foot base, the Winged Victory copy is an attention-grabber at 131 S.

Dearborn St., in no small part because it is covered in nearly 4,000 leaves of 23-carat gold.

Robert Frese spent a month pounding and shaping the gold leaf onto the resin statue, made from a rare mold of the original

sculpture, which itself was fashioned around 190 B.C.

Frese thinks the copy will last for at least 100 years. Pretty good, but proof the original remains the best.