

Medieval Illuminated Manuscripts



Tuesday 28 April – Tuesday 23 June 2020

Seminar Room 1, Sackler Centre, Level 1

Half Term: Tuesday 26 May 2020

10.30 – 13.00

Course Leader: Dr. Sally Dormer & Dr. Catherine Yvard

An eight-day course that will explore various aspects of medieval illuminated manuscripts and some early printed books, and offer the opportunity to see at first hand items from the V&A's extensive collection that are not usually on view to the public.

During the Middle Ages books written by hand, illuminated with gold and painted with costly pigments, were prized by ecclesiastical and lay patrons as the most desirable of possessions. Gerald of Wales, a twelfth-century chronicler, was so impressed by a manuscript he saw that he exclaimed it must have been "the work of an angel". Such volumes are equally appreciated today. The materials and techniques used to produce them reveal much about the working methods of medieval craftsmen. Their texts and illustrations inform us about patterns of public worship, private devotion, intellectual pursuits and the everyday lives and leisure interests of the men and women who commissioned and used them.

Please note that numbers on this course will be strictly limited to 35, enabling students to split into smaller groups for certain sessions. Each session will be repeated to enable everyone to participate in each activity.

Speakers:

Dr. Sally Dormer, V&A Year Course Director

Dr. Catherine Yvard, Curator National Art Library Collections, Word & Image V&A

Timothy Noad, College of Arms

Jane Rutherston, Principal Book Conservator, Conservation & Collections, V&A

Catriona Gourlay, Assistant Curator, National Art Library, Word & Image, V&A

Week 1: Tuesday 28 April - Introduction

10.30: *Methods: How to approach Medieval Manuscripts*, Sally Dormer

(Group divided in two, sessions repeated in Week 2)

12.00: *An unfinished fifteenth-century Book of Hours MSL/1993/2 (RW I, No. 65)*, Sally Dormer

12.00: *The work of a Twenty-First Century Illuminator*, Timothy Noad

Week 2: Tuesday 5 May – Materials & Techniques

10.30: *Parchmenters, Scribes and Artists: Making a Manuscript*, Sally Dormer

(Group divided in two, sessions repeated from Week 1)

12.00: *An unfinished fifteenth-century Book of Hours MSL/1993/2 (RW I, No. 65) (Repeat)*, Sally Dormer

12.00: *The work of a Twenty-First Century Illuminator*, Timothy Noad

Week 3: Tuesday 12 May – Bibles

10.30: *Designing the Word*, Sally Dormer

(Group divided in two, sessions repeated at 12.30)

12.00: *Bible - MSL/1902/1663 (Reid 23) (RW II, No. 80), Low Countries, 1450-5*, Catherine Yvard

12.00: *Bible – MSL/1902/1696 (Reid 55) (RW I, No. 15), Bologna, c. 1260-70*, Sally Dormer

Week 4: Tuesday 19 May – Psalters

10.30: *Illustrating the Psalms: Illuminated Psalters*, Sally Dormer

(Group divided in two, sessions repeated at 12.30)

12.00: *The 'Plantagenet Psalter', England, c. 1430-40 – MSL 1902/1684 (Reid 42)*, Sally Dormer

12.00: *A thirteenth-century Psalter – MSL/1902/1664 (Reid 24) (RW I, No. 16), Southern Low Countries*, Catherine Yvard

Half Term: Tuesday 26 May

Week 5: Tuesday 2 June – Book of Hours I

10.30: *Books of Hours: Texts and Lay Devotion*, Catherine Yvard

(Group divided in two, sessions repeated in Week 6)

12.00: *The Hours of Margaret of Foix MSL/1910/2385 (RW I, No. 53)*, Sally Dormer

12.00: *Visit to the Paper and Book Conservation Studio*, Jane Rutherston

Week 6: Tuesday 9 June – Book of Hours II

10.30: *Made in Rouen: Rouen Books of Hours*, Sally Dormer

(Group divided in two, sessions repeated from Week 5)

12.00: *The Hours of Margaret of Foix MSL/1910/2385 (RW I, No. 53)*, Sally Dormer

12.00: *Visit to the Paper and Book Conservation Studio*, Jane Rutherston

Week 7: Tuesday 16 June – Secular Books

10.30: *Literature and Learning: Illuminated Secular Books*, Sally Dormer

(Group divided in two, sessions repeated at 12.30)

12.00: *A fifteenth-century Pliny, Historia Naturalis MSL/1896/1504 (RW II, No. 101)*,

Sally Dormer

12.00: *A fifteenth-century Petrarch MSL/1947/101 (RW II, No. 104)*, Catherine Yvard

Week 8: Tuesday 23 June – *Early Printed Books*

10.30: *The Advent of Printing: Manuscripts in Transition*, Catherine Yvard

(Group divided in two, sessions repeated at 12.30)

12.00: *Anton Koberger's 1483 Bible*, Catherine Yvard

12.00: *Printed Parisian Books of Hours*, Catriona Gourlay

**** Please note that this programme is subject to change*