



## PRECIOUS

Les Enluminures New York

23 East 73rd Street,  
7th floor Penthouse  
New York, NY 10021

May 12 to June 30, 2023

*Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 5pm, on appointment*

Our spring exhibition "**Precious**" navigates the richly interwoven relationship between artistry, luxury, and class in medieval and Renaissance Europe.

Intricate miniatures and manuscripts, jewelry, and sculpture are included in this exhibition and offer a versatile understanding of affluence and extravagance. They represent an epoch during which wealthy merchant class citizens pushed the consumption of opulent objects and works of art to a new all-time high, one that would match that of the royal courts. Both in cities and in courts, luxury objects were unapologetically paraded and witnessed in public displays of wealth. At the same time, more private forms of luxury also flourished.

The elegantly illuminated **Dyson Perrins Hours** from the circle of Tommaso di Mascio Scarafone or the Montemorcinio Master, highlights a luxurious prayerbook made for a wealthy nun to take with her for her private devotion in a convent in Perugia.

As luxury and religion became personalized, with worship and appearance now being a portable commodity rather than rooted in the physical church, dress and finery reinforced one's status and expressed one's piety in public. **The Pendant with Virgin Mary as Queen of Heaven** embodies this dichotomy, granting the wearer a personal relationship to their faith while inviting onlookers to witness their devotion. **The Enamel Necklace with Satyr Pendant** is a tour de force of workmanship and style. The satyr displayed in the front center of the work is a provocative subject, representing seduction and mischievousness. The diamond set within his chest is an open display of fortune and would have attracted an intrigued gaze towards the woman's décolletage upon which it was worn.

Conspicuous displays of wealth were also present in the church. Private chapels partook in the pursuit of splendor. The **Late Gothic Pomeranian Sculptures of Saint Margaret and Saint Barbara**, originally set within a retable, are just one example of the prized works of art that bedecked churches. Today, retable sculpture from Pomerania is exceedingly rare due to the destruction caused by World War II, making these works powerful reminders of the vibrant sculpture trade in Northern Poland.

Standing in the presence of these objects, we can experience first-hand the world of fantastical consumption and heightened artistic production of the Middle Ages.

Founded by Dr. Sandra Hindman over thirty years ago and with locations in Paris, Chicago, and New York, Les Enluminures has forged long-standing relationships with major museums and prestigious private collections throughout the world. It exhibits at TEFAF Maastricht, Frieze Masters London and Seoul, and the Winter Show, and organizes three to four exhibitions in its gallery spaces annually. The gallery is well-known for the level of its scholarship but also for the diversity, high quality, and provenance of the works it offers for sale.

*Exhibition text by Flynn Murtaugh*

THE DYSON PERRINS HOURS

Italy, Umbria, Perugia (Nunnery of Sant'Agnese?), c. 1475

In Latin, illuminated manuscript on parchment.

With 4 full-page miniatures and 10 historiated initials from the circle of Tommaso di Maschio Scarafone or the Montemorcino Master



Please contact us for high resolution images and descriptions of the featured work of art.

PRESS CONTACT: [newyork@lesenluminures.com](mailto:newyork@lesenluminures.com)

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ENAMEL NECKLACE WITH SATYR PENDANT

Gold, ronde bosse enamel, silk thread  
Likely France, c. late 16th century



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SAINT MARGARET AND SAINT BARBARA  
RELIEF FIGURES FROM AN ALTARPIECE

Attr. Master of the Retable of Elbing, Pomeranian, ca. 1515-1520  
Limewood, polychrome, gilding  
43 x 20 cm (Margaret), 43 x 21 cm (Barbara)



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