



Special Exhibition "Women and the Book" TEFAF Maastricht

March 11 - 19, 2023

MECC, Forum 100 6229 GV Maastricht The Netherlands

Stand 243

To accompany our latest publication on Books of Hours, *Les Enluminures* will bring a **special exhibition entitled "Women and the Book"** to TEFAF Maastricht this year. It will focus on 3 topics: Women as Patrons, Women as Artists, and Women's Lives, and aims to augment our understanding of the realities of the lives of women in the Middle Ages.

Medieval "best-sellers," Books of Hours were owned by an increasingly broad sector of society, including women from the thriving upper and middle classes. The "Le Saunier Hours" (Fig.1) made in Lyons at the dawn of the Renaissance features a **remarkable portrait of the female patron kneeling in prayer with her Book of Hours in front of her.** We know her family name Le Saunier thanks to the heraldic shield in the border, and her name was perhaps Catherine, as the saint known for her wisdom stands behind her.

In the commercial sphere, **women often trained as illuminators working in the family business.** Two manuscripts in this exhibition are by a collaborator of Willem Vrelant in Bruges known as the Mildmay Master (Figs.2-3). Vrelant's enterprise was comprised of family members including women. His widow Marie is now thought to have been the Master of the *Vraie Cronicque descose*, and he sponsored at least three women illuminators for entry in the guild in Bruges.

The story of the life of the Virgin, the core of the Book of Hours (Fig.4), revolves around the intimate experience of the female reader, who was encouraged to identify with Mary. In the Hours of Guillaume II Molé, a lavish frontispiece depicts the angel Gabriel appearing to Mary interrupted while reading her Book of Hours in the Annunciation. Mary weaves in her chamber below and marries Joseph on the right.

Alongside this highlighted exhibition of illuminated manuscripts, *Les Enluminures* will display a group of spectacular leaves, and jewelry from the Middle Ages and Renaissance.

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.

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

PRESS CONTACT: info@lesenluminures.com

LE "SAUNIER HOURS"

In Latin and French, Illuminated manuscript on parchment

France, Lyon, c. 1490-1500

15 small miniatures, 24 calendar miniatures attributed to the the Lambert Master and the Master of the Alarmes de Mars



FIG. 1

f. 143v, *Female Donor in prayer*, presented by Saint Catherine of Alexandria

f. 144, *Saint Stephen*, holding the stones of his martyrdom and an open book

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75001 Paris
France

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980 North Michigan Ave.,
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NEW YORK

23 East 73rd Street
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THE NEWTON HOURS AND PRAYER BOOK (USE OF SARUM)

In Latin, Illuminated manuscript on parchment. 62 miniatures, 44 full-page, by the Mildmay Master
Southern Netherlands, Bruges, c. 1460-1470



FIG. 2

p. 26, the patron kneeling in prayer before the Trinity;
in the lower margin, the rebus spelling the patron's last name, 'Newton'.

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HOURS OF JEAN ANTOINE DE MAHIEU AND JACQUELINE DE SIVRY

In Latin and some French, Illuminated manuscript on parchment.

22 full-page miniatures by the Mildmay Master (13), the Master of Philippe de Croÿ (7), and a third Mons illuminator, follower of Simon Marmion (2) and 4 small miniatures by the Mildmay Master

Southern Netherlands, Mons, c. 1460 (original portion), c. 1480-1490 (updated)



FIG. 3

f. 165, *St. Hubert in prayer before a deer*

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HOURS OF GUILLAUME II MOLÉ

In Latin, Illuminated manuscript on parchment

13 full-page miniatures, 34 historiated initials, and 24 small calendar miniatures by the Rosenberg Master
France, Lyons, c. 1480-1490



FIG. 4

f. 22, *Annunciation with scenes from the Life of the Virgin: the Presentation of the Virgin to the Temple, the Virgin weaving in her chamber, and the Marriage of the Virgin.*

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