

Painted Pages: Illuminated Manuscripts 13th – 18th Centuries

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Painted Pages: Illuminated Manuscripts explores the golden age of handmade books, some of which employed elaborate gold leaf decoration and intricate ornament. The show includes examples from medieval European Bibles, prayer books, psalters, books of hours, choir books, missals, breviaries, and lectionaries. Examples of the materials—gold leaf, parchment, vellum, and minerals which were ground into pigments—used by artists to create these extraordinary pages are also featured in the exhibit.

Most of the works date from the thirteenth through the eighteenth centuries and are ink on parchment (prepared animal skin).

French, Italian, Spanish, Dutch, Flemish, English, Armenian, and German examples will be included in addition to non-Western pages, including seventeenth- and eighteenth-century leaves from the Koran and Shahnameh (the Persian illustrated Book of Kings), as well as examples of Hebrew texts. Nearly all of the manuscript pages entered the collection of the Reading Public Museum through Otto Ege, a well-known bookseller and manuscript specialist, who was born in Reading in 1888. He was a longtime resident of Cleveland, where he served as professor of art history and dean of the Cleveland Institute of Art.



TOP LEFT: Gallery installation at Polk Museum of Art, Lakeland, FL.

MIDDLE LEFT: Gallery installation at Reading Public Museum.

BOTTOM LEFT: Gallery installation at Reading Public Museum.

BOTTOM CENTER: (Detail) Leaf from a *Shahnameh* (*Book of Kings*), story of Rostam Slays the White Div, Persian, 16th – 17th century, opaque watercolor, gold, and ink on paper, Museum Purchase. Reading Public Museum, Reading, Pennsylvania.

NEAR RIGHT: Joachinus de Gigantibus de Rotenberg (illuminator), German, active 1440s - 1490s, Pietro Ursuleo of Capua (scribe) Italian, died 1483, Leaf from a *Book of Hours*, Italian, 1465 – 1483, opaque watercolor, gold, and ink on parchment, Museum Purchase. Reading Public Museum, Reading, Pennsylvania.

CONTENTS: 37 sheets (including four bifolios) in 31 frames; 1 bound manuscript, 1 scroll, 1 framed original Otto Ege promotional flyer, manuscript-making materials display, digital introduction and section panels, and digital educational brochure.*

SIZE: Approximately 130 running feet

EXHIBITION TOUR: Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, Hagerstown, MD; Samek Art Museum at Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA; Mitchell Gallery at St. John's College, Annapolis, MD; Polk Museum of Art, Lakeland, FL

*pedestals and vitrines for displaying 3-D objects not included.

For exhibition fee and availability, please see enclosed price sheet.