

Society for History and Graphics (SHAG)

Wednesday, July 23, 7:00pm - 9:00pm

MICA, Bunting Center, Room 410

(1401 Mt Royal Ave / Baltimore)



Word become Flesh: Medieval Manuscripts and the Production of Meaning

Speaker: Kerr Houston, Chair, Department of Art History, Theory & Criticism, Maryland Institute College of Art

Medieval codices were relatively rare and inevitably expensive—but they nevertheless played a critical role in the creation and transmission of ideas in the Middle Ages, even as they also served as a physical emblem of one of the basic principles of Christian theology. In attempting to render the ineffable word visible, makers of manuscripts developed a standard process of production, while also experimenting with a broad range of relations between text and image. This talk will offer a summary of the steps involved in the production of illuminated manuscripts, and will add a few thoughts on some of the ways in which manuscripts implied readings that varied from the canonical to the subversive.



Show & Tell:

Middle Age Imagery

Bring imagery you respond to that originated in the Middle Ages. Share your thoughts about how the conventions or elements in those images are carried through to current day design—your own or someone else's work.