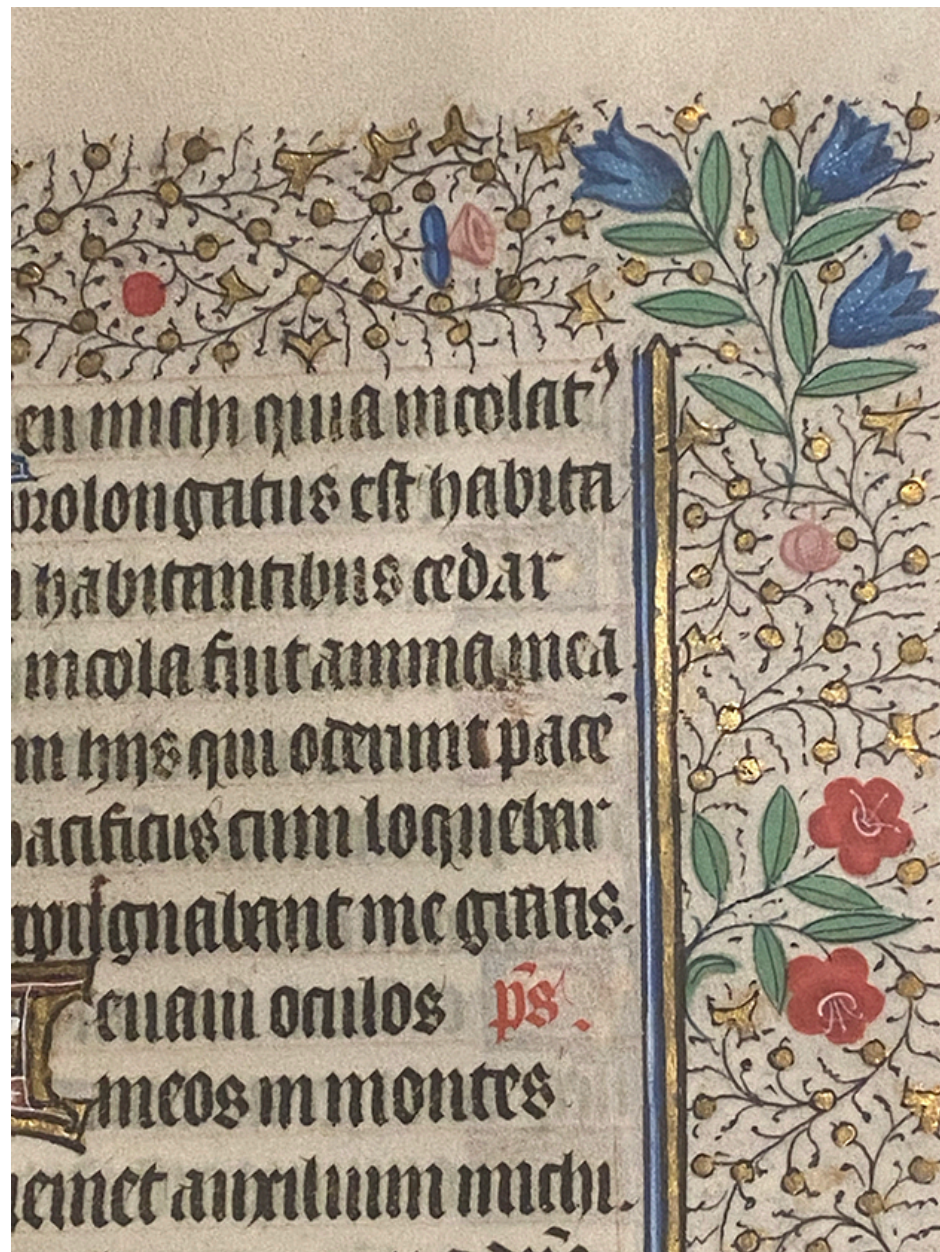


MODERN + MEDIEVAL : Playing with Motifs

You'll find many images that can be a springboard of inspiration for modern takes on Medieval and Renaissance art and many scholarly resources that discuss the finer points of both, our goal for this workshop is simply to enjoy and use the old to inspire us to create modern works for pure pleasure.

Below you'll find a few examples you may wish to use as you create your own version of contemporary art based on that which has been around for centuries.

EXAMPLE 1, from the rare book collection of Boston Public Library. This manuscript dates from the mid 1500's.

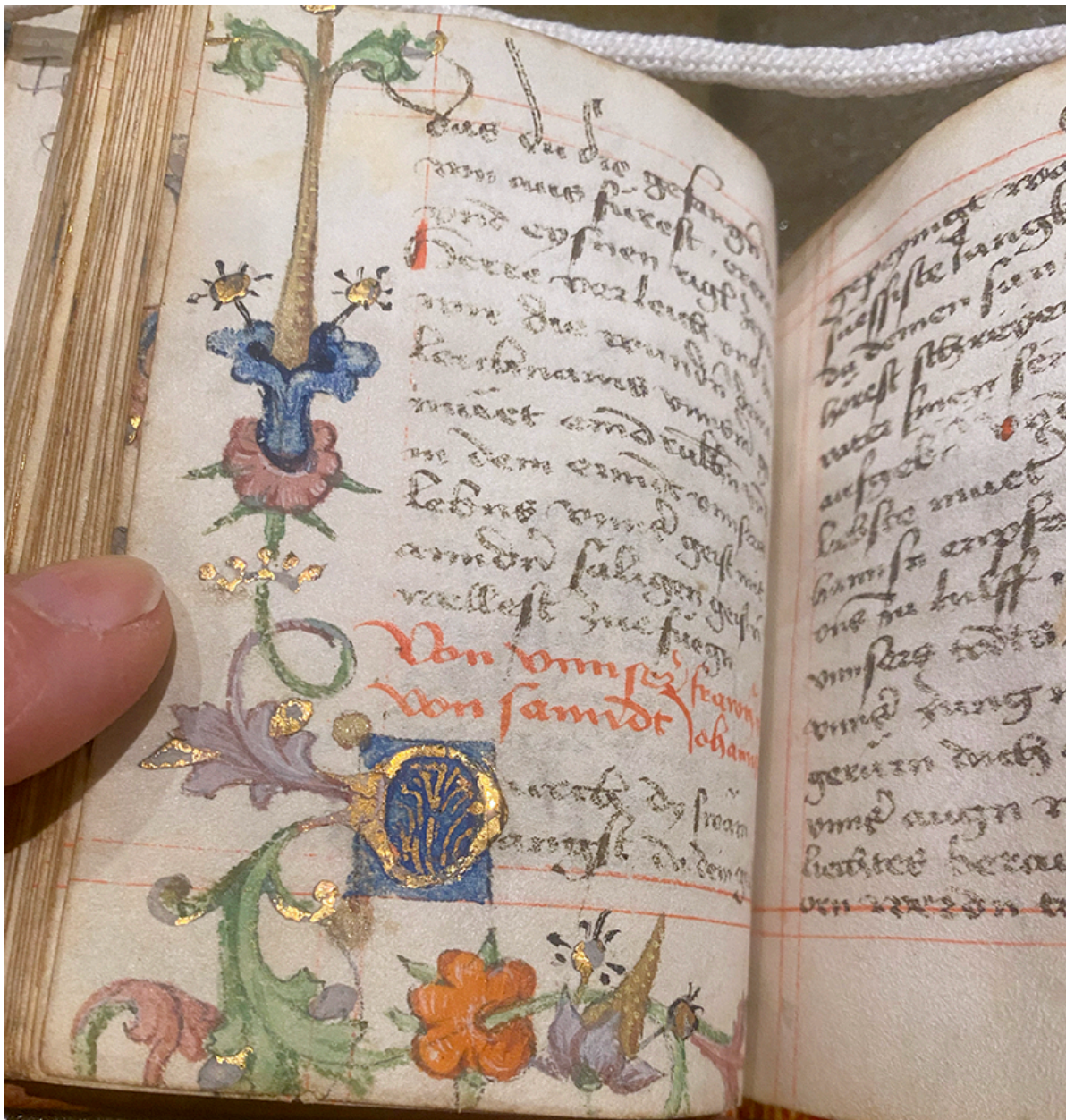


Example 2, from Forum Ad Usum Sarum, 1493

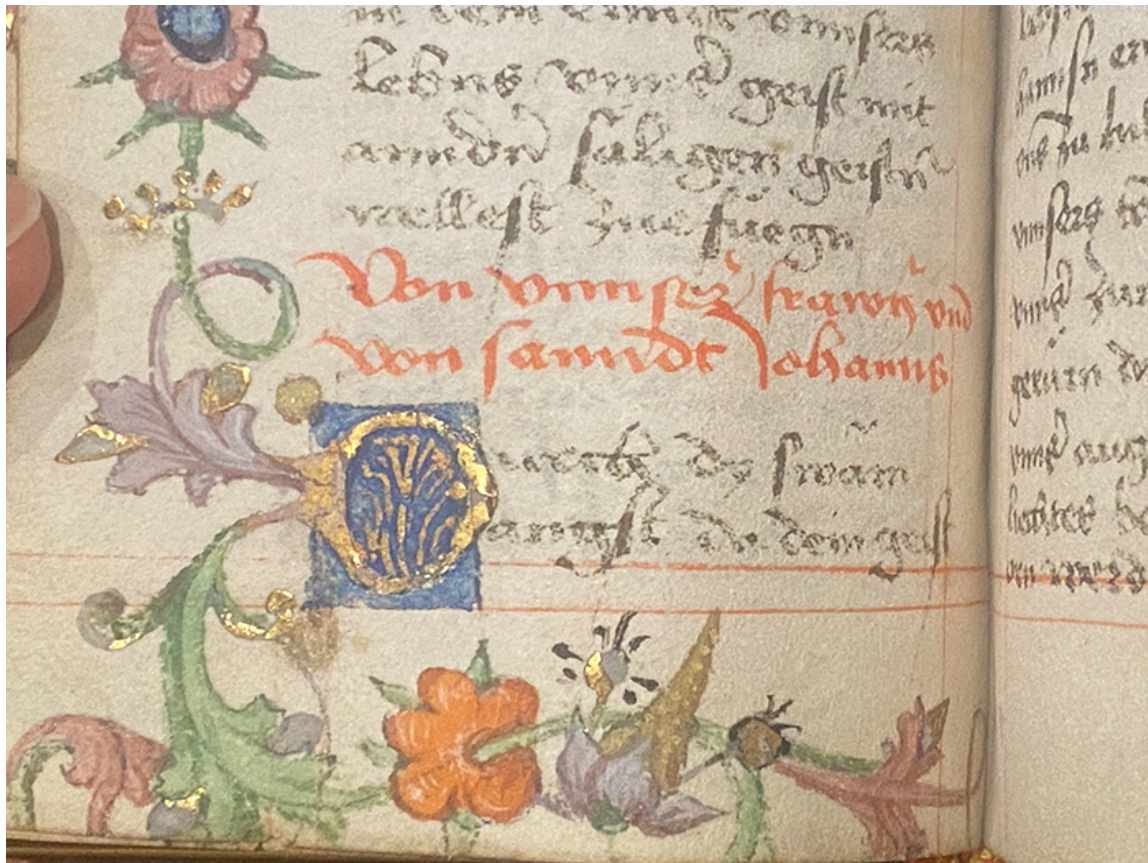


Note how much this example differs from the previous one.

Das die die Gefang
 um aus furest, o
 und es sien tugt
 Derre verleit und
 um die wunde
 karthaus om
 muet and eult
 in dem ein
 Lebn und gest
 armdn saligen gest
 vellest die fien
Von vmpf fey
Von samdt Johan
 wach dy swam
 amst in dem
 zeymigt ro
 fuffste lang
 da demen sun
 herst stz reger
 wter lmer sen
 aufged
 laste muet
 hamst enpf
 ons zu huff
 vmpfz teds
 vmd hung
 ger in dach
 vmd augn
 lichter herau
 on wren



Close up shot of the same material:



You can almost feel the hand of the scribe and the artist here. Note the naïveté, simplicity of strokes and sketched lines still noticeable. How might you interpret these images for borders? For overall images? For repeats? Compare with the next example. Below, example 4:



Previous image and below from a manuscript dating to the mid 16th century:

Note the gilding, the precision of every detail, the opacity of the paint. Did you notice the lining, the thin inked black lines that were missing in the more naive examples? The sophistication of the illuminated capitals is clear. How would you express this look in a modern way?



Example 5 below:



Example 6:

