

in the spotlight: colors of the world

COLORS OF THE WORLD ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPTS IN THE AGE OF EXPLORATION

The quintessential Morgan school program that broadens students' perspective of books and museums.



Unit Overview

In *Colors of the World*, the prevalence of **literacy** in today's world is contrasted with a time when reading and access to knowledge were relegated to the few. The program instills students with a **sense of value for the written word**.

Students will draw upon the Morgan's superb collection of illuminated manuscripts and relate them to world history in a way that will deepen their understanding of cultural identity and **interaction among diverse peoples across time and place**. Hands-on activities will emphasize the impact of trade with West Africa and Asia on medieval Europe's glorious manuscript production, as imported spices, dyes, semiprecious stones, gold, and animal matter became the basis for illuminators' palettes.

Session One

Students will analyze a vast selection of painted and gilded pages and discuss material and function within their historical context. They will then determine the many ways images and text interact and draw parallels with more familiar Web-design counterparts.

Session Two

Students will reenact historical artists' techniques and use traditional tools and ingredients to produce their own illuminations. Art supplies will include saffron threads, dried insects, and malachite chips to be ground with a mortar and pestle. These materials will serve as a starting point for discussions on European history and topics related to Eurasian trade routes, including geography, botany, geology, chemistry, zoology, and social history.

GRADES 3 TO 12

**TWO SESSIONS AT THE MORGAN BOOKED
APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK APART**

90 MINUTES PER SESSION

PREVISIT MATERIAL

Images from Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts, a guide to a large online compilation of images from the Morgan's collection of manuscripts.

IN-SCHOOL PREVISIT MEETING WITH TEACHERS

In alignment with Charlotte Danielson's *Framework for Teaching Evaluation Instrument*, we are offering an in-school previsit meeting to prepare teachers for *Colors of the World*. They will receive instructional materials and resources to enhance their students' content knowledge. The meeting will be 45 minutes long, and will take place one month prior to the first session of *Colors of the World*.

GALLERY ACTIVITIES

Gallery exploration, discussion, and hands-on art project.

CONTACT

To schedule a class please call 212.685.0008, ext. 509 or email schools@themorgan.org

Colors of the World provides students with an exceptional educational opportunity and a rare artistic experience through its compliance with the *Common Core State Standards*, the *Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in the Arts*, and *National Visual Arts Standards*.

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS COMPLIANCE
(see pages 4 and 5)

BLUEPRINT COMPLIANCE

◆Art Making: *Painting, Two Dimensional Applied Design* ◆Literacy in the Visual Arts: *Looking at and Discussing Art, Developing Visual Arts Vocabulary* ◆Making Connections Through Visual Arts ◆Community and Cultural Resources: *Cultural Institutions, Online Resources*

SUGGESTED READINGS

FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN 6TH GRADE AND UP
Brown, M. *Understanding Illuminated Manuscripts: A Guide to Technical Terms*. The J. Paul Getty Museum in association with The British Museum, Malibu, 1995.

DeHamel, C. *Scribes and Illuminators*, The British Museum, London, 1992.

FOR STUDENTS IN 3TH TO 5TH GRADES
Millen, C.M. *The Ink Garden of Brother Theophane*, Charlesbridge, Watertown, MA, 2010

Nikola-Lisa, W. and Christensen, B. *Magic in the Margins, A Medieval Tale of Book Making*, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 2007.

Robertson, B. and Hewitt K. *Marguerite Makes a Book*, The J. Paul Getty Museum, LA, 1999.

Expansion of *Colors of the World* is made possible by a generous grant from the Brooke Astor Fund for New York City Education in the New York Community Trust.



“Other Perspectives and Cultures”

For a broader and fully integrated exploration of the role of Eurasian trade on cross-cultural connections, we invite you to also look further East, towards Himalayan Asia. Sign up for one or two complementary programs, *Materials and Techniques: How is it made?* and *Silk Road: From China to the West*, at the **RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART**. For further information please go to www.rmanyc.org/schooltours.



IN-SCHOOL OFFERING— For your convenience, *Colors of the World*, Session Two can be brought to your classroom by Morgan educators. Due to high demand, we will give priority to schools that schedule at least three in-school sessions to take place within the same week.