

Colors of the World: Illuminated Manuscripts in the Age of Exploration

Colors of the World: Illuminated Manuscripts in the Age of Exploration Professional Development and Workshop is an introduction for classroom teachers to discover the free education resources and classroom support the Morgan Library & Museum offers to New York City teachers and schoolchildren. This professional development is designed to seamlessly integrate the art of illuminated manuscripts to enhance and connect the topics of Language Arts, Visual Arts, and Social Studies in grades three through twelve.

The Morgan houses one of the world's foremost collections of medieval and Renaissance illuminated manuscripts. An art form that peaked during the Renaissance and was ultimately overshadowed by the advent of the printing press, these beautiful hand-written, hand-painted volumes provide some of the most compelling evidence for the connections of the ancient world's trade routes. An extensive intercontinental network of trade routes across the Asian continent connecting the vast lands of Asia with the Mediterranean world, as well as North and Northeast Africa, enriched Europe's manuscript production until the mid-1500s, as spices, semi-precious stones, and animal matter brought back to European workshops from these regions became the basis of illuminators' palettes. *Colors of the World* aims to use the ancient Silk Road routes to introduce illuminated manuscripts to a broader audience by encouraging creative and innovative ways to think about world history from the perspective of artists and craftspeople who were engaged in manuscript-making. Through conversation, inquiry and tactile experiences, participants consider the manuscripts' materials, form, and functions within their historical context.

During session one, trained instructors will lead participants on a gallery exploration of Pierpont Morgan's original 1906 private library and study where they will investigate the rare primary sources of medieval and Renaissance manuscripts. Participants will analyze images, text format, book size, and the function of the book, and how its appearance and content inform us about its owner and creators. Discussions will allow them to see these manuscripts as by-products of early world travels and as sources of the knowledge gathered by traders and explorers of non-Western cultures.

During session two, instructors will use high-quality facsimiles and an array of artifacts, tools, and materials to help participants explore the various crafts and skills relevant to making a medieval book, from writing to painting, gilding, and binding. Through a hands-on exploration of historical materials and production processes, participants will be able to experiment with the medieval techniques of Western illumination: they will use mortars and pestles to grind traditional raw materials (such as malachite, saffron, and dried cochineal insects) to make their own paint. They will apply this handmade paint, along with 22-karat gold leaf, to complete their own illuminated initial projects. The hands-on art activity will provide the class with avenues for thinking and talking about the interdependence of European and non-European cultures in the creation of illuminated manuscripts.

***Colors of the World: Illuminated Manuscripts in the Age of Exploration* Professional Development series provides five CTLE credits. Your CTLE certification form is provided at the end of the event day.**