



1625 NORTH CENTRAL AVENUE, CORNER OF CENTRAL AND McDOWELL · (602) 257-1222 · PHXART.ORG

Exhibition Fact Sheet

- EXHIBITION:** *Illuminated Manuscripts*
- *Illuminating the Word: The Saint John's Bible*
 - *The Early History of the Bible*
 - *Selections from the James Melikian Collection*
- DATES:** December 11, 2007 – March 9, 2008
- LOCATION:** Phoenix Art Museum – Steele Gallery
1625 N. Central Avenue
(Northeast corner of Central Avenue and McDowell Road)
- ADMISSION:** Admission to the exhibition is included in general museum admission.
- \$10 for adults
 - \$8 for senior citizens (65+)
 - \$8 for full-time college students with ID
 - \$4 for children ages 6–17 and free for children under 6 and for museum members.
 - Admission is also free on Tuesdays from 3:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m. and for everyone on First Fridays, 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
- HOURS:** Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Wednesday – Sunday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
*The museum is closed on Mondays and major holidays.
- OVERVIEW:** One of the most remarkable artistic endeavors undertaken this millennium will be on display this winter at Phoenix Art Museum as the museum plays host to *Illuminating the Word: The Saint John's Bible* – the only handwritten and illuminated Bible commissioned since the advent of the printing press more than 500 years ago.

In celebration of this ancient art form and epic project, Phoenix Art Museum will present one of the world's most *divine* exhibitions, focusing on handmade Bibles and manuscripts from throughout 1300 years of history. For the **first time** *The Saint John's Bible* will be exhibited alongside ancient texts including *The Early History of the Bible* from the world-class collection of sacred manuscripts at the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, and *Selections from the James Melikian Collection* from a private collection in Phoenix, representing two exhibitions featuring more than 20 rare, handmade Christian and Jewish manuscripts and early printed Biblical texts.

- more -

illuminated manuscripts

DEC 11, 2007 – MAR 9, 2008

ILLUMINATING THE WORD: THE SAINT JOHN'S BIBLE · THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE BIBLE · SELECTIONS FROM THE JAMES MELIKIAN COLLECTION

Illuminating the Word: The Saint John's Bible is organized and circulated by the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and Saint John's University. The exhibition's local and national tour is presented by Target. © · *The Early History of the Bible* is organized by the Walters Art Museum, Baltimore. · *Selections from the James Melikian Collection* is organized by Phoenix Art Museum. · Major support for Phoenix Art Museum's presentation of these exhibitions is provided by Meridian Banks and Marquette Asset Management, Meridian Bank, EG and Carol Barmore, Sharron and Delbert Lewis, Matthew and Marysia Gerson, and The Virginia G. Piper Exhibition Endowment. · Promotional support is provided by The Arizona Republic and Barnes & Noble Booksellers.



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Illuminated Manuscripts - Phoenix Art Museum

Add One

THE ARTIST:

The project's artistic director, Donald Jackson, is revered as one of the world's foremost Western calligraphers. Born in Lancashire, England in 1938, Donald began studying calligraphy and illuminating at the age of 13 and by his mid-twenties was appointed scribe to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Crown Office at the House of Lords.

During the past eight years, Jackson has worked in rural Wales, United Kingdom, with scribes and artists to write and illuminate *The Saint John's Bible* entirely by hand, using quills and paints hand-ground from precious minerals and stones such as lapis lazuli, vermilion, malachite, silver, copper, and 24-karat gold.

EXHIBITION

HIGHLIGHTS:

Illuminating the Word: The Saint John's Bible

Illuminating the Word: The Saint John's Bible features 49 two-page openings from the nearly-complete Bible, with selections from *Gospels and Acts*, *Pentateuch* (the first five books of Jewish and Christian scripture), and *Psalms*.

Original preparatory drawings and artists' sketches will also be on display, as well as a worktable from the scriptorium, displaying materials such as quills, hand-ground pigments, gold leaf, calfskin vellum, and ancient inks from China.

The project, expected to be completed in late 2007, will comprise 1,150 pages in seven volumes and will be bound by Phoenix-based Roswell Book Binding once finished.

The Early History of the Bible

Comprised from the extensive, world-class collection of sacred manuscripts and ancient Biblical works of the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, *The Early History of the Bible* features illuminated manuscripts ranging in date from 300 BC to the 19th century, and offers an unparalleled chronology of the book as an art form.

Exhibition highlights include:

- An 8th century Egyptian Biblical manuscript fragment
- Two 13th century French Bibles
- A heavily illustrated "Picture Bible" – called a *Biblia Pauperum* (*Pauper's Bible*) – made in Nördlingen, Germany in 1470
- A 17th century Torah Scroll made in Eastern Europe during the Jewish Diaspora
- The first printed book for the theological instruction of Rabbis, the *Mikrot Gedalot*, printed in Venice, Italy in 1561

- more -

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**Illuminated Manuscripts - Phoenix Art Museum
Add Two**

Selections from the James Melikian Collection

A local private collection, this display features some of the rarest and most sacred manuscripts ever created, and is an ideal compliment to the Saint John's Bible exhibition. This is the first time that this private collection has been on public display.

Exhibition highlights include:

- A 12th century Assyrian New Testament written in Aramaic known as *The Khabouris Codex*
- Three heavily-illustrated Armenian *Four Gospels*
- A selection of English printed Bibles from the 1600s
- Several deluxe silver Bible covers made for the Armenian communities in Italy, Istanbul, and throughout the Near East (modern-day Turkey)

PROGRAMS:

Phoenix Art Museum will present a complete schedule of public programming including a lecture series featuring *The Saint John's Bible* creative director, Donald Jackson and Dr. Tom Loughman, Curator of European Art for Phoenix Art Museum. Additionally, the museum will host a variety of calligraphy demonstrations, activities for kids and families, music, movies and more. For additional information on public programs, visit the Web site at: phxartilluminated.org or PhxArt.org.

SPONSORS:

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INFORMATION:

For more information about this exhibition or Phoenix Art Museum, visit the Web site at: phxartilluminated.org or PhxArt.org, or call the 24-hour recorded information line at (602) 257-1222.

**MEDIA
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