



NEWS RELEASE

2200 Dodge Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68102 Phone: 402-342-3300 Fax: 402-342-2376 www.joslyn.org

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Contact: Amy Rummel, Director of Marketing and Public Relations
(402) 661-3822 or arummel@joslyn.org

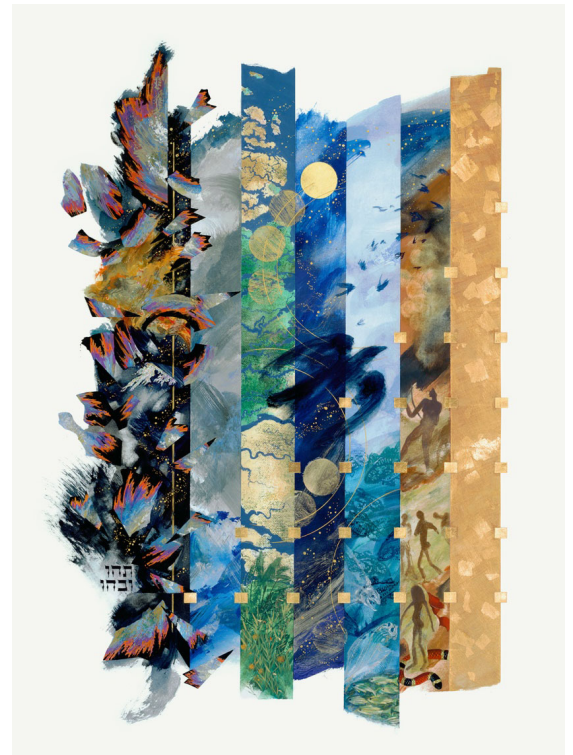
Word and Image

The Saint John's Bible

On view at Joslyn Art Museum October 5, 2019–January 19, 2020

(Omaha, NE) – A contemporary masterpiece of medieval craftsmanship, *The Saint John's Bible* is the first handwritten, illuminated Bible commissioned by a Benedictine Monastery since the invention of the printing press in the fifteenth century. Featuring 76 original pages from this unique Bible and a selection of rare books and texts from other religious traditions, *Word and Image: The Saint John's Bible* explores the relationship between faith, art, and the written word.

The Saint John's Bible was commissioned by Saint John's Abbey and University in Collegeville, Minnesota, a community which has always fostered an appreciation for the living arts that is anchored in the past yet welcomes innovation. In that spirit, Saint John's engaged celebrated calligrapher Donald Jackson to produce a contemporary Bible that is at once old and new: a masterpiece of the ancient crafts of calligraphy and illumination that could only be made by artists of today. Handwritten on calfskin vellum, using hand-cut quills, ancient inks, natural pigments, and 24-karat gold, silver, and platinum, but following a layout devised on a computer, this enormous undertaking combined centuries-old methods with new technologies. The Bible employs a modern English translation (the New Revised Standard



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Word and Image: The Saint John's Bible at Joslyn Art Museum

Version), and its illuminations feature global contemporary imagery to inspire new readings of this sacred text. The incorporation of motifs from several religious traditions, including Judaism, Buddhism, and Islam, as well as Native American, Middle Eastern, and South Asian cultures, imbues *The Saint John's Bible* with a multicultural resonance for people of all faiths and backgrounds.

In the Middle Ages, monumental Bibles were made for daily use in monastic communities and carefully preserved for future generations. *The Saint John's Bible* continues that tradition. In 2006, Joslyn hosted *Illuminating the Word: The Saint John's Bible*, an exhibition that included unbound folios from three volumes of the Bible. Production of *The Saint John's Bible* was completed in 2011, and now, Joslyn is pleased to share unbound folios from all seven volumes that make up the Old and New Testaments. Return visitors who first encountered this magnificent Bible as a project still in the process of creation, will now experience it as a cultural artifact.

Joslyn's exhibition will include a selection of rare books, manuscripts, and sacred texts, including examples of Books of Hours dating from the fifteenth century; richly decorated musical folios from fourteenth and fifteenth century Italy and seventeenth century Spain; Judaism's foundational sacred text, the Torah; and pages from the Koran (Qur'an), the holy book of Islam.

Word and Image: The Saint John's Bible is organized by Joslyn Art Museum and Saint John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota.

Exhibition Tickets and Tours

Word and Image: The Saint John's Bible is a ticketed exhibition: \$10 for general public adults; \$5 college students with ID (tickets for those with a UNMC student ID are free); free for members and youth ages 17 and younger. Special Thursday pricing (4–8 pm): \$5 for general public adults. All visitors, including members, must obtain a ticket at the admissions desk for entrance to the exhibition. Programs with visits to the exhibition will be priced accordingly for general public adults. Docent-guided tours of the exhibition are offered weekly (ticket pricing applies; view the calendar of events at www.joslyn.org for tour offerings).

Exhibition Mobile Tour

Free Wi-Fi is available in all Joslyn galleries. Guests may use their own mobile device or borrow one of Joslyn's to access the dual language *Word and Image: The Saint John's Bible* mobile tour. Dial (402) 881-3601 for English or (402) 972-4031 for Spanish; or visit www.joslyn.org > Education > Multimedia; or scan the QR code at the entrance to the exhibition; or read the audio script, available for hearing impaired visitors (access it through the web app). Presented by Joslyn and OnCell with special thanks to 91.5 KIOS FM.

Exhibition Programs & Events

Friday, October 4 @ 5:30 pm

Members Preview and Reception

On Friday evening, October 4, members are invited to a private talk and reception celebrating *Word and Image: The Saint John's Bible*. At 6 pm in the Witherspoon Concert Hall, members will enjoy a talk by special guest **Tim Ternes, Director of *The Saint John's Bible* Project at the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library at Saint John's University**. Following the talk, members will enjoy exhibition viewing and light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. The Hitchcock Museum Shop will be open during this event. Joslyn members receive invitations. To join Joslyn, visit www.joslyn.org.

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Presenting Sponsor:



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Word and Image: The Saint John's Bible at Joslyn Art Museum

Monday, October 7; noon–3 pm

Members Day

On Monday, October 7, the Museum opens *Word and Image: The Saint John's Bible* exclusively for Joslyn members. From noon to 3 pm, members show their membership card at the desk for tickets to the exhibition. A lecture, "Reviving a Lost Art: Making a Manuscript in the 21st Century," will be presented from 1–2 pm in the Witherspoon Concert Hall by Father Eric Hollas, OSB. A Benedictine monk of Saint John's Abbey, Fr. Hollas was instrumental in initiating *The Saint John's Bible*. Taylor Acosta, Ph.D., Joslyn's associate curator of European art, will conduct exhibition tours at 12:15 pm and 2:15 pm (first come, first served; limited capacity for talks; participants will be asked to sign up upon arrival on October 7 as no reservations will be taken ahead of time for tours). Joslyn members receive invitations. To join Joslyn, visit www.joslyn.org.

Sundays, October 13, 27, November 10, December 8 @ 2 pm

Encountering The Saint John's Bible

Given by Creighton faculty at Joslyn on select Sundays at 2 pm, these talks examine the composition and canonization of the Bible. Lectures are free and open to the public. Those wishing to view *Word and Image: The Saint John's Bible* must obtain a ticket (details on page 2).

**October 13 – "The Bible and Its Interpreters: Making Meaning out of Genesis 3"
with Dr. Dulcinea Boesenberg**

In the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, Satan tempts Eve to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and humanity falls into sin. However, the text of Genesis 3 does not mention Satan, a fall, or sin! These elements are familiar because Genesis 3 is generally read in light of the interpretations of ancient Jews and Christians who answered the questions raised by the sparse narrative of Genesis 3 with the assumption that the text contained lessons for them. Recognizing this distinction between a text and its interpretations, how should modern readers make sense of biblical texts?

Dulcinea Boesenberg, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of theology at Creighton. Her research focuses on the New Testament and Second Temple Judaism.

**October 27 – "Where Science Meets Scripture: *The Saint John's Bible*"
with Dr. Gintaras Duda and Dr. Sherri Brown**

The Saint John's Bible incorporates many scientific ideas and images into illuminations. Where some might argue that religion and science are incompatible, *The Saint John's Bible* rejects this notion and serves as a beautiful example of the fundamental compatibility of faith and reason. In this presentation, a physicist and a biblical scholar come together to present a selection of these illuminations to show that when science and scripture do meet in dialogue, a deeper understanding of the fundamental questions of existence can emerge.

Gintaras Duda, Ph.D. is a professor and chair of the department of physics at Creighton. His primary disciplinary research interest is the problem of dark matter: composition, detection, and fundamental theories/origins. In addition to astro-particle physics/cosmology, he explores questions of science and religion.

Sherri Brown, Ph.D., is a biblical scholar and associate professor of theology at Creighton. Her research interests focus on biblical narrative and the Gospel and Letters of John in particular.

**November 10 – "How the Bible became *Bible*"
with Dr. Nicolae Roddy**

Most people agree the Bible did not fall from heaven in one fell swoop; but just what was the process by which selected oral and written traditions came to be shaped into a grand narrative of Israel's past? This comprehensive look at textual signposts helps reveal how and why the Bible came to be.

Nicolae Roddy, Ph.D., is an Eastern Orthodox biblical scholar, professor of theology at Creighton, and visiting professor of biblical archaeology at the Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Bucharest, Romania.

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Word and Image: The Saint John's Bible at Joslyn Art Museum

December 8 – "Gospel Portraiture and the Art of Interpretation"

with Dr. Susan Calef

This talk will offer an exploration of the distinctive features of each of the four Gospel "portraits" of Jesus and their contributions to Christian spirituality.

Susan Calef, Ph.D., is a New Testament scholar and Director of the Women's and Gender Studies Program at Creighton. She teaches courses on women and gender in biblical traditions, and feminist and womanist interpretation of biblical texts, among others.

Saturday & Sunday, November 2 & 3

Free College Weekend

During regular public hours (10 am to 4 pm) on Saturday and Sunday, November 2 and 3, anyone with a valid college ID will receive free tickets to *Word and Image: The Saint John's Bible*. Regular ticket price for college students is \$5 (tickets for those with a UNMC student ID are always free).

Saturday, November 2; 11 am–3 pm

Art of the Book

This event is free and open to the public. Those wishing to view *Word and Image: The Saint John's Bible* must obtain a ticket (details on page 2).

11 am–1 pm: Family Activities

The day begins with book arts displays, demonstrations, and hands-on fun. Create illuminated art with metallic crayons and a watercolor resist. Add a mark to a giant scroll using unique implements. Write in Arabic with Jihan Ali or Chinese with Dr. Haihong Jiang of Creighton University. See calligraphy demonstrations by Laura Capp of Postscript, then draw and color fancy letters. Watch Anne Burton of Metropolitan Community College demonstrate book binding and make a book to take home. Visit with staff from Omaha Public Library.

1 pm: Public Lecture

"Special Treatment Illuminations"

with Diane von Arx, illuminator and part of the artistic team for *The Saint John's Bible*

A native Minnesotan, Diane von Arx is a graphic designer, specializing in creative lettering, calligraphy, and corporate identity. She conducts workshops around the world and has published three beginning calligraphy workbooks. Her work has been included in numerous exhibitions and private collections. Von Arx was part of the artistic team for *The Saint John's Bible* and was responsible for the design, lettering, and illumination of *The Book of Honor*, the donor volume for *The Saint John's Bible*, which was also created on vellum with the same tools and techniques as the seven-volume Bible.

Following the illustrated lecture, enjoy a light reception and calligraphy demonstration with the artist. Personalized bookmark lettering offered as time allows.

Friday, November 15; 6–9 pm

Indulging in the Word: An Evening of Art, Music, & Dining

Pre-registration required one week prior to the event at www.Joslyn.org: \$75 Joslyn Members; \$95 General Public

Celebrating *Word and Image: The Saint John's Bible*, this night of spirit, strings, and psalms begins with a 6 pm cocktail reception featuring music by harpist Kim Meyer on the Strauss Bridge. Guests may view the exhibition, where Joslyn's associate curator of European art, Taylor J. Acosta, Ph.D., will provide commentary on select pages of *The Saint John's Bible*. At 7:15 pm, enjoy an elegant dinner in the Storz Fountain Court where tables will be adorned by floral centerpieces inspired by a page from *The Saint John's Bible*. Punctuating the dining experience will be a special performance by the Omaha-based Rangbrook Ensemble featuring several spiritual refrains, including "Psalm 8" for soprano, viola and cello, "Draw the Sacred Circle Closer," and "In Manus Tuas."

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Word and Image: The Saint John's Bible at Joslyn Art Museum

Thursday, December 5 @ 6:30 pm (cash bar opens @ 5 pm)

Public Lecture with Dr. Bridget Sandhoff

This talk is free and open to the public. Those wishing to view *Word and Image: The Saint John's Bible* must obtain a ticket (special Thursday evening price of \$5 for general public adults; details on page 2).

Bridget Sandhoff, Ph.D., associate professor of art history at the University of Nebraska Omaha (UNO), presents "Caskets of Bones and Walls of Stone: The Saints in Western Medieval Art." In the European Middle Ages, the saints were integral figures in the lives of the Christian faithful. They were humans from all walks of life who performed extraordinary acts or were graced by God with supernatural abilities. As a result, the church elevated them to intercessors for the faith, defenders of the church, and role models of virtuous behavior. It is through this adoration that art production and church construction in medieval Europe (1000-1500 AD) flourished. This lecture explores the historical and visual tradition of the cult of the saints in the Western Middle Ages, focusing on specific saints and the artwork that honored them.

Bridget Sandhoff, Ph.D., is an expert in the art of classical antiquity (Etruria, Rome, Greece, Egypt, Aegean) and the art of the European Middle Ages. Her areas of research in the medieval world include the cult of the saints, religious orders, female spirituality, and Gothic architecture.

Thursdays, December 12 & January 9 @ 6:30 pm (cash bar opens @ 5 pm)

Curator Talks

Held in the Abbott Lecture Hall, these talks are free and open to the public. Those wishing to view *Word and Image: The Saint John's Bible* must obtain a ticket (special Thursday evening pricing of \$5 for general public adults; details on page 2). Join Taylor Acosta, Ph.D., Joslyn's associate curator of European art, for "An Introduction to *The Saint John's Bible*"—a 30-minute overview of the exhibition that provides a closer look at select pages.

Tuesday, January 14 @ 5 pm

Omaha Table Talk: Women & Wisdom: Social Justice in the Pages of The Saint John's Bible

Free and open to the public; exhibition viewing 5–6 pm; light meal provided; registration required—opens two weeks prior to event at www.inclusive-communities.org. Questions? Please email info@inclusive-communities.org or call (402) 391-4460.

Inclusive Communities confronts prejudice, bigotry, and discrimination, providing education and advocacy related to the topics of diversity and inclusion. Joslyn is pleased to host Inclusive Communities, and program partner Tri-Faith Initiative, for an Omaha Table Talk ("uncomfortable conversations over comfort food") inspired by the exhibition *Word and Image: The Saint John's Bible*. Guests may explore the exhibition free of charge, then enjoy a light meal and panel discussion, moderated by Ferial Pearson, Ph.D., Teacher Education, University of Nebraska Omaha (panelists to be announced). Topics will include the role of women in faith communities, intergenerational narratives, and systems of advantage within various traditions. Attendees will be encouraged to participate in facilitated small-group dialogue.

Other Programs at Joslyn

Many of Joslyn's regularly scheduled programs will feature *Word and Image: The Saint John's Bible*-inspired themes. Visit www.joslyn.org for complete details.

- **Art Encounters** (Thursday, October 17; 10:30 am): Art lovers, from the well-seasoned to the amateur, will enjoy a docent-guided tour of *Word and Image: The Saint John's Bible* exhibition. \$10 general public adults; \$5 college students with valid ID on October 17.
- **Visualizing Literature** – *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks (Tuesday, November 12): *Visualizing Literature* explores connections between the literary and visual arts through moderated book discussions and gallery tours led by Joslyn docents. Presented in partnership with UNMC's Passport Partners program, *Visualizing Literature* is open to

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Word and Image: The Saint John's Bible at Joslyn Art Museum

anyone interested in art and literature. Book discussions are free to Joslyn Members and Passport Partner (UNMC) members; \$10 for general public; \$5 college students with ID (UNMC students free). Includes *Word and Image; The Saint John's Bible* admission on November 12. Reservations are required. For details, or to register for the program, please visit www.joslyn.org.

- **Stroller Tours** (Wednesday, November 20): Joslyn offers docent-guided tours designed for moms, dads, and caregivers to look at and talk about art with other adults, while being mindful of young ones in arms and strollers. Guests gather on the Strauss Bridge at 9:30 am for complimentary refreshments, then head to the galleries at 10 am for tours of Joslyn's collections and exhibitions. Crying babies welcome! On November 20, the tour will feature *Word and Image; The Saint John's Bible* exhibition. Free for Joslyn members and infants/toddlers; \$10 for general public adults (includes exhibition ticket). Space is limited; reservations are requested. Sign-up at least one week in advance at www.joslyn.org > Visit > Kids Programs.
- **Art Camps and Classes**
Joslyn offers classes and camps for all ages this fall, many inspired by *Word and Image: The Saint John's Bible*. Online class registration is available; Joslyn members receive discounted registration. Visit www.joslyn.org > Education > Classes.

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JOSLYN
Art Museum

Our Mission — Joslyn Art Museum collects, preserves, and interprets the visual arts of the highest quality, fostering appreciation and enjoyment of art for the benefit of a diverse audience.
Our Vision — To be cherished and respected as a premier art museum.

Joslyn Art Museum showcases art from ancient times to the present. The Museum was a gift to the people of Omaha from Sarah Joslyn in memory of her husband, George, who made his fortune as president of the Western Newspaper Union. The Museum's original 1931 building is one of the finest examples of Art Deco architecture in the nation, with 38 types of marble from seven countries. The Walter and Suzanne Scott Pavilion, a 58,000-square-foot addition built in 1994, was designed by renowned British architect Norman Foster as his first U.S. commission. The Museum features galleries, a 1,000-seat concert hall, fountain court, education technology gallery, lecture hall, classrooms, sculpture garden, café, shop, and Art Works, an interactive space for art exploration.

General Museum Admission: Free (additional charge for general public adult tickets to *Word and Image: The Saint John's Bible*; see page 2).

Regular Museum Hours: Tuesday through Sunday, 10 am–4 pm; late 'til 8 pm on Thursday; closed Monday and major holidays.

www.joslyn.org | (402) 342-3300 | 2200 Dodge Street | Omaha, NE 68102