



Redesigning the Medieval Book

a workshop and competition for book artists
at the Bodleian Library, Oxford

In winter 2017-18 at the Bodleian Library in Oxford, an exhibition *Designing English: Early Literature on the Page* will show the page design of English literature in handwritten manuscripts and inscriptions across the Middle Ages. It will range through the first thousand years of written English, from Old English picture books to early Tudor plays and manuals for handling swans, from stray notes scratched into Anglo-Saxon herbals and fragments of lost songs in the margins, to learned masterpieces placed centre-page and framed by illustration and gilded borders. It will celebrate the craft of the scribes, painters and engravers who designed these pages and other objects to make English writing speak to people clearly and with authority.

To complement that exhibition, the Bodleian Library will host a workshop, competition and exhibition for contemporary book artists: *Redesigning the Medieval Book*. We invite book artists to design and make new books inspired by medieval manuscripts from the exhibition. The invitation is for artists and craftspeople of any specialism who engage with books in their work, including bookbinders, papermakers, calligraphers, illustrators, graphic designers, handpress printers, sculptors, graphic designers, digital artists and other craftspeople.

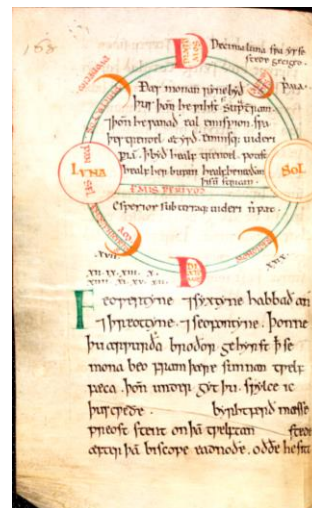
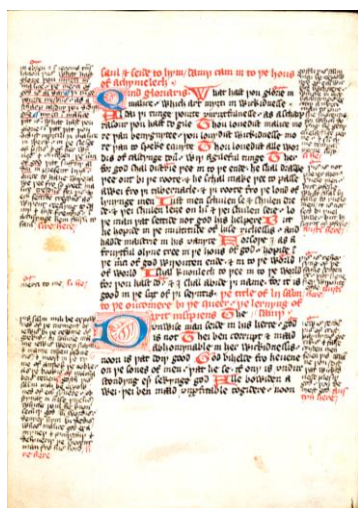


The project

We invite potential competitors to one of two workshops at the Bodleian Library, to see and learn more about the medieval manuscripts from the exhibition. The workshops will run from 12.30-4.00 on Friday 10 March 2017 and on Thursday 22 March. We'll pay reasonable UK travel expenses of participants in this workshop. Lunch will be provided.

After the workshop, we'll send to participants some digital images of many of the manuscripts, to jog memories, and a written brief for the competition. The brief will include short passages of medieval text, one of which should be used as the basis for a new project. Competition entrants will be asked to create a piece of book art, of whatever sort, in response to the brief. The deadline will be 30 September 2017.

A shortlist of entries will be selected for a public exhibition at the Bodleian Library in Oxford from 1 December 2017, which will run alongside the exhibition of medieval manuscripts which inspired them. There will be a launch event for the exhibition, to which the press will be invited. One winning artist will be awarded prize money of £1500 and three runners-up will receive prize money of £500. The winner will be expected to deposit their submission in the Bodleian Library in perpetuity, and some runners-up and shortlisted entrants might be invited to do so.



How to take part

To register for a workshop, please email Madeline Slaven and Daniel Wakelin (madeline.slaven@bodleian.ox.ac.uk, daniel.wakelin@ell.ox.ac.uk) by Friday 3 March, briefly noting: (i) the area of book arts in which you work; (ii) whether you would like to attend **either** Friday 10 March 2017 **or** Thursday 23 March 2017; and (iii) roughly how much you estimate the travel costs to be. Participants will need to present full receipts for travel costs.

People who cannot attend a workshop but would like to enter the competition should email us. We look forward to hearing from you!

