Saturday seminar

Professor Margaret Manion AO and Professor Charles Zika,

“Aspects of the Kerry Stokes Collection of Illuminated Manuscripts”

Saturday 17 May 2014
1.30 pm to 4:30 pm

Leigh Scott Room, Baillieu Library, University of Melbourne
Professors Manion and Zika co-authored the splendid recently published work, *Celebrating Word and Image, 1250-1600: Illuminated Manuscripts from the Kerry Stokes Collection* (Fremantle Press, 2013).
1. Professor Margaret Manion, “Hidden Treasures Come to Light: Illuminated Manuscripts in the Kerry Stokes Collection”

The Kerry Stokes Collection is a private collection of impressive quality and magnitude. As well as splendid European, American, Australian, Asian and European paintings, sculptures, woodcuts, engravings, maps, documents and rare books, it includes a fast growing and fascinating group of Medieval and Renaissance illuminated manuscripts. This talk will look at a number of illuminated devotional manuscripts – several Books of Hours, a Breviary and a parchment triptych – that have recently been acquired by the Stokes Collection and are now the subject of continuing research.

The particular characteristics of these manuscripts will be discussed as well as some of the distinctive ways they enrich our knowledge of the history of French and Netherlandish book illumination in the late Medieval and early Renaissance (Early Modern) period.

Emeritus Professor Margaret Manion was Herald Professor of Fine Arts at the University of Melbourne, 1979-1995. One of Australia’s leading art historians, she is an internationally recognised authority on medieval and Renaissance art, and on the art of illuminated manuscripts in particular.

2. Professor Charles Zika, “Celebrating the Nuremberg Carnival: a Unique Insight into Late Medieval Festivity and Fashion in the Schembart Book”

The talk will look at the so-called Schembart Buch, a richly illustrated manuscript in the Kerry Stokes collection that presents an account of the annual Shrove Tuesday carnival parade that was held sixty-five times between 1449 and 1539. It will present the main features of this particular manuscript (c. 1540) with reference to some of the other 80+ manuscripts held in depositories world-wide. It will also discuss the origins of the carnival, one of the highlights of the Nuremberg festive and cultural year, how it became so central to literary and performative culture as well as fashion, and how it was transformed from a celebration held in the city’s streets and squares to one memorialized on paper.

Professor Charles Zika taught for many years in the History Department of the University of Melbourne, and is an internationally recognised authority on the cultural, religious and visual history of northern and central Europe in the late medieval and early modern periods. He is currently a Professorial Fellow in the University’s School of Historical and Philosophical Studies and one of ten Chief Investigators in the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions, 1100-1800.

RSVP by Tuesday 13th May 2014 to: Leanne McCredden
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