



Book of Beasts: The Bestiary in the Medieval World

May 14 through August 18, 2019

At the Getty Museum, Getty Center, Los Angeles

RELATED EVENTS

LECTURES

Medieval Bestiaries and their Original Purpose

Sunday, May 19, 2019

4:00 pm

HMWA

Bestiaries are among the most enchanting and endearing of all illuminated manuscripts. Renowned manuscript expert Christopher de Hamel looks at what a Bestiary comprises and where these manuscripts were made. He asks the bigger question of what their original purpose was and how Bestiaries were actually used by their owners in the Middle Ages. The answer takes us into the medieval understanding of the creation of the world. All animals were believed to exist in order to convey hidden messages from God, to be discovered and decoded. Bestiaries are books for use by cloistered monks, whose exposure in real life to actual lions and elephants and unicorns was negligible. To study manuscripts about animals was seen as an act of piety, like reading the Psalms or the Bible. Bestiaries show was a world of natural history completely different from our own.

Artists and Beasts: Why Animals?

Thursday, June 13, 2019

7:00 PM

HMWA

Animals have been depicted in artworks for tens of thousands of years, dating to the earliest known cave paintings. Over the millennia, art has reflect changes in human-animal relationships. Manuscripts, especially the medieval bestiaries that describe dozens of the world's creatures, reflect the symbolic meaning attached to animals in the Middle Ages. Many contemporary artists continue to explore our connections to beats: Kate Clark creates hybrid fusions of humans and animals in her sculptures; Claire Owen explores the emblematic function of beasts in her modern artist-book version of a bestiary; and writer Donika Kelly uses poetry to reflect on encounters between humans and animals. This panel of three artists explores the enduring desire to see the human in the animal world (and vice versa) and how that duality finds its form in the arts of today.

Our Animals, Our Selves: A Southern California Bestiary

Sunday, June 2, 2019

3:00pm

HMWA

The connections between humans and animals are myriad and complex, ranging from the intimacy of pets to the fantasy of exotic animals seen in captivity. In Southern California, we have a particularly close relationship to animals and ecosystems. From ubiquitous coyotes and raccoons to creatures ranging from insects to mountain lions and whales, wild animals impact human life daily. Inspired by the Getty Museum's exhibition of medieval bestiaries, Los Angeles Times writer Louis Sahagun, poet Charles Hood, and Lila Higgins, community science manager at the Museum of Natural History, explore our relationships to animals in Southern California. Moderated by Ursula Heise from UCLA's Institute of the Environment & Sustainability.

Intro to the Care of Magical Creatures: The Bestiary and Harry Potter

Sunday, July 14, 2019

4:00 pm

HMWA

Welcome to your crash course on magical creatures, Hogwarts students! Did you know that many of the best-known beasts that Harry and his friends encounter—the screaming mandrake, the pure unicorn, the fierce hippogriff, and the terrifying dragon—all appear in medieval bestiaries, a kind of encyclopedia of animals? Join manuscripts curators Larissa Grollemond (Getty Museum) and Julian Harrison (British Library) as they uncover the medieval origins of your favorite creatures from the world of Harry Potter.

F A M I L Y

Family Festival: The Book of Beasts: The Bestiary in the Medieval World

Saturday, June 15, 2019

10:00 am -6:00 pm

Lions and tigers and bear and...unicorns and bearded dragons – OH MY! Find delight and wonder in fantastic animals, real and imagined, who will roam the Getty inspired by the exhibition *The Book of Beasts: The Bestiary in the Medieval World*. Become a winged, hoofed, or scaled animal yourself through hands-on demonstrations, performances and workshops. Whether you prefer real or fanciful creatures, there's something for everyone to enjoy at this beastly festival!

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The J. Paul Getty Museum collects Greek and Roman antiquities, European paintings, drawings, manuscripts, sculpture and decorative arts to 1900, as well as photographs from around the world to the present day. The Museum's mission is to display and interpret its collections, and present important loan exhibitions and publications for the enjoyment and education of visitors locally and internationally. This is supported by an active program of research, conservation, and public programs that seek to deepen our knowledge of and connection to works of art.

Visiting the Getty Center

The Getty Center is open Tuesday through Friday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Admission to the Getty Center is always free. Parking rates vary. No reservation is required for parking or general admission. Reservations are required for event seating and groups of 15 or more. Please call (310) 440-7300 (English or Spanish) for reservations and information. The TTY line for callers who are deaf or hearing impaired is (310) 440-7305. The Getty Center is at 1200 Getty Center Drive, Los Angeles, California.

Same-day parking at both Museum locations (Getty Center and Getty Villa) is available for one fee through the Getty's Pay Once, Park Twice program. Visit the Museum Information Desk at the Center or the Villa to obtain a coupon good for same-day complimentary parking at the other site.

Additional information is available at www.getty.edu.

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