Symposium

This interdisciplinary symposium will examine artists, patrons, and audiences as agents who desired real, imagined, or exotic representations of narratives about the world and its peoples. In an attempt to expand the monolithic notion of the period traditionally referred to as the Middle Ages in Europe, this symposium invites dialogue among specialists from across the art historical spectrum of the 12th to 17th centuries to include Asia, Africa, and the Americas. Focusing on manuscripts, this symposium aims to encourage collaborations across traditional geographic and disciplinary boundaries and to foster new dialogues between museums and the academy.

Manuscripts in a Global Context will coincide with a major exhibition at the Getty Museum, Traversing the Globe through Illuminated Manuscripts (January 26–June 26, 2016). Drawn primarily from the Getty’s collection of illuminated manuscripts, with complementary loans from collections across Los Angeles, the exhibition considers how portable objects—like manuscripts, ceramics, textiles, glassworks, gems, and sculptures—contributed to one’s outlook on the world in Europe, Africa, Asia, and the early Americas. For more information on the exhibition, visit www.getty.edu.
### DAY 1

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<tr>
<td>9:30–10:00</td>
<td>Check-in</td>
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| 10:00–10:30 | Welcoming Remarks  
**Timothy Potts**, Director, J. Paul Getty Museum  
**Bryan Keene**, J. Paul Getty Museum |
| 10:30–12:30 | Session 1  
**GLOBAL NARRATIVES**  
Moderated by Elizabeth Morrison, J. Paul Getty Museum  
**Sussan Babaie**, Courtauld Institute of Art  
"Missionary Effects and Messianic Aspirations: The Picture Bible at the Court of Shah 'Abbas in Isfahan, Iran"  
**Mark Cruse**, Arizona State University  
"Illuminating the Silk Road: The Manuscripts of Marco Polo’s Travel Account" |
| 12:30–2:00 | Lunch break and exhibition visit (self-guided) |

### DAY 2

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| 10:00–10:30 | Welcoming Remarks  
**Suzanne Preston Blier**, Harvard University  
**Asa Mittman**, California State University, Chico  
**Jill Caskey**, University of Toronto  
**Bindu Gude**, Los Angeles County Museum of Art |
| 10:30–12:30 | Session 4  
**CULTURES IN CONTACT**  
Moderated by Stephanie Schrader, J. Paul Getty Museum  
**J. Sören Edgren**, Princeton University  
"From Buddhist Illuminated Manuscripts to Printed Sutras in East Asia"  
**Roland Betancourt**, University of California, Irvine  
"The Exiles of Byzantium: Form and Historiography"  
**Suzanne Conklin Akbari**, University of Toronto  
"Where is Medieval Ethiopia? Mapping Ethiopic Studies within Medieval Studies" |
| 12:30–2:00 | Lunch break and exhibition visit |

### Keynote Address

**Helen C. Evans**, Metropolitan Museum of Art  
"Illuminated Manuscripts in an Encyclopedic Museum"  
6:00  
Reception

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**RELATED PROGRAMMING**

**A Medieval Picture Book and its Judeo-Persian Lives: The Shah 'Abbas Bible in 17th-Century Safavid Iran**  
Lecture by Sussan Babaie, Courtauld Institute of Art  
Tuesday, April 19; 7:00 p.m. Free; advance ticket required.