

## A TIME MACHINE: MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE RINGS

PRESENTED BY  
THE GALLERY LES ENLUMINURES

AT THE *LOUVRE DES ANTIQUAIRES*  
1st DECEMBER 09 > 6 JANUARY 2010



Renaissance Ring  
Middle of the 16th century  
Diamond and enamel

**Between 1 December to 6 January 2010, the magic of Medieval and Renaissance rings comes alive during an exhibition of rare elegance and beauty held at the gallery Les Enluminures in Paris. A selection of approximately one hundred rings will be exhibited.**

In addition to their visual allure and historical interest, what is so unusual about these rings, among all other types of Medieval and Renaissance objects, is that they are mostly completely wearable. Worn by its new owner, every ring transmits a story of the past, often centuries or even millennia old.

Adopting a resolutely original and didactic approach and design, the exhibit explores the history and the functions of rings. These precious objects served as modes of identification and expressions of religious beliefs. Rings could be given as tokens of friendship or gifts of love, used as symbols of social status, or simply favored as fashion accessories. Certain rings were adopted to reaffirm and strengthen family ties (« Nominative rings »), or used to authenticate legal documents (« Signet rings »).

This exhibit shows rings of timeless beauty, coveted and treasured by men and women from a wide range of social classes.

Some exceptional pieces can be seen and admired, for instance a Byzantine ring from the 10th century, in remarkable state of conservation. A bird with a twig in his beek is rendered in translucent light blue and green enamel inlay set in the bezel. A band of strung beads separates the upper disk from the lower disk at the base of the hoop. Both disks are welded together using six gold wires that secure the beads.



Byzantine Ring  
10th century  
Enamel and beads



Merovingian Ring (France)  
6-7th centuries  
Gold and garnets

Although passed down from ancient and remote times, these rings are still charged with an innate power of seduction and are surprisingly modern.

This exhibit offers the viewer a chance to go back in time, amazed and fascinated by unique and original rings.

Buyers of such treasures will have the possibility of trying on these rings, with a wide range of prices starting at 2000 Euros.

### ***The Gallery Les Enluminures in a few words...***

In the very centre of Paris next to the Louvre, the gallery Les Enluminures is located in a large complex of high-quality antique shops called the Louvre des Antiquaires. Founded in 1991 by Dr. Sandra Hindman, the gallery takes its name from the French word for "illuminations," or miniatures, which are hand-painted pictures in books written by hand, or manuscripts. Specializing in illuminated manuscripts and miniatures, the gallery also offers a diverse selection of works of art such as sculpture, ivory, metalwork and rings.

In association with an office located in Chicago, the gallery Les Enluminures takes part in a number of high-profile fairs and cultural events including the Winter Antiques Show in New York, the San Francisco Fall Antiques Show, the European Fine Art Fair (TEFAF) in Maastricht and the Biennale des Antiquaires (Paris). Amongst its clients one can list the Musée du Louvre, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the National Gallery of Art, the British Library and the British Museum, and the Musée National du Moyen Age de Cluny (Paris).

Complete descriptions of all rings are available on our website:

[www.medieval-rings.com](http://www.medieval-rings.com)

#### **GALERIE LES ENLUMINURES**

#### **Le Louvre des Antiquaires**

2, place du Palais Royal - 75001 PARIS

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[www.lesenluminures.com](http://www.lesenluminures.com)

Open from Tuesday to Sunday – From 11 A.M. to 7 P.M.

Métro : Palais Royal – Musée du Louvre

### **OPENING WEDNESDAY 02 DECEMBRE STARTING 6 P.M.**

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