

24–27 APRIL

EXPOCHGO

CONTEMPORARY ART FAIR



April 24 – 27, 2025

Booth 231

Navy Pier Festival Hall, 600 E Grand Ave,
Chicago IL 60611

Les Enluminures returns to EXPO Chicago 2025 with the exhibition “*Painting Then, Painting Now*” a celebration of the timeless appeal of Medieval art.

As the only gallery featuring pre-19th century work, we are proud to bring manuscripts and jewelry from the Middle Ages, which offer a fresh and dynamic bridge between the past and the present and encourage viewers to think about the lesser known but certainly undeniable parallels between Then and Now.

Our highlights include the work of one of the earliest known artist couples, Jeanne and Richard de Montbaston (active in Paris in the 1302s-1350s), who richly illustrated our copy of the Roman de la Rose, a wildly popular medieval masterpiece that blends dreamlike allegory with a daring exploration of love, desire, and knowledge. Their work illustrates the story that unfolds in a surreal landscape where abstract forces—such as Reason, Jealousy, and Generosity – become living characters, guiding, and obstructing the narrator’s pursuit of his elusive love, represented by a rose.

The parallels between Then and Now are not limited to timeless themes of the Roman de la Rose. Like today’s artists, medieval painters like the Montbastons understood that color and composition have the power to transcend mere depiction and become experiences in and of themselves. The Gothic emphasis on flatness and pattern mirrors the minimalist purity found in contemporary abstraction. The idea that color itself can be expressive, independent of naturalistic representation has deep roots in medieval aesthetics which valued almost unmodulated fields of color, deep blues and rich reds, not uncommonly set on gold leaf backgrounds that dissolve natural perspective, transforming the scene into a symbolic environment. Come and experience for yourself how art Then relates to art Now.

Please contact us for high resolution images and descriptions of the featured work of art.

PRESS CONTACT: info@lesenluminures.com

Guillaume de Lorris and Jean de Meun, *Le Roman de la Rose*

In French, Illuminated manuscript on parchment.

23 miniatures by Richard (1) and Jeanne de Montbaston (22)

France, Paris, c. 1350



PARIS

21-22 Galerie de Montpensier,
Jardin du Palais Royal, 75001 Paris
France

CHICAGO

980 North Michigan Ave.,
Suite 1330
Chicago IL 60611

NEW YORK

23 East 73rd Street
7th Floor, Penthouse
New York, NY 10021