



BEYOND SIGHT

Les Enluminures New York

23 E 73rd St
Penthouse
New York, NY 1002

November 14, 2024 to January 10, 2025

Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 5pm, on appointment

“Beyond Sight” explores the tactile nature of medieval and Renaissance art in dialogue with artist-goldsmith Joy BC.

The sense of touch is one of the central and earliest forms of perceptual experience. Touch spans the range of human emotion, from violence to tenderness. Joy BC’s technique evokes her touch, and whose medium, fine jewelry, encourages a haptic engagement.

Viewers are encouraged to consider the art on display as objects designed to be touched and cherished. In the medieval mind, physical touch and proximity with art enhanced its meaning. Craftsmen used design with great intention, and materials had symbolic meaning. Holding a diamond ring close to the body promised good health and fortune. Running fingers over pigments and materials in medieval manuscripts, like gold leaf or the luxurious blue pigment lapis lazuli, connected one with the world beyond familiar borders. If we were to travel back in time, modern audiences might be shocked to see precious illuminated manuscripts not under glass, but tenderly clutched in hands, their pages worn from religious devotion and liturgical practice. Artisan jewelers would select stones in rings and pendants for their amuletic and medicinal properties, selected to ensure the integrity of their benefits, activated through the wearer’s touch.

The exhibition will feature important illuminated medieval manuscripts and exceptional historic jewelry from the early Middle Ages to the high Renaissance that showcase examples of the range of haptic and physical experiences enjoyed from its original owners to its contemporary custodians.

Joy BC (Joy Bonfield – Colombara), whose work has been described as both wearable art and miniature sculpture, enters into dialogue with the artists and artisans of the past through a curated selection of her latest series. Trained as both a painter and carver, Joy’s creations represent a fierce union of both two- and three-dimensional spaces. The series on view in Beyond Sight focus on the dual nature of her work, by exploring two jewelry series alongside her drawings, shown in the United States for the first time. Joy’s work offers viewers an opportunity to explore the haptic realities of medieval and Renaissance art through a modern lens. Like medieval and Renaissance works, Joy’s sculptures are activated and enhanced through touch.

Together, the contemporary and the historic works tell a story about art appreciation where function is transcended, and where the aesthetic meets the experiential. By bridging the gap between the medieval and the modern, this exhibition invites exploration of the intimate relationship between art and its beholder.

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About Joy Bonfield-Colombara (b. 1989):

She received her undergraduate degree from the Glasgow School of Art and her M.A. from the Royal College of Art in London. In 2022 Joy was awarded with the Goldsmiths' prize at the 40th anniversary of the Goldsmiths' Fair in London. The Queen Elizabeth Trust awarded Joy a scholarship in 2023, to work intensively with Master Goldsmith Giovanni Corvaja in Italy. In 2021, the ring 'Dismantle' was acquired for the Alice and Louis Koch Collection in the Swiss National Museum, Zurich. Joy BC also created a tiara/sculpture for the Nelson Atkins Museum in the USA.

About Les Enluminures:

Founded in 1991, with galleries in Paris, Chicago, and New York, Les Enluminures is an internationally recognized leader in the field of medieval and Renaissance manuscripts, miniatures, rings and jewellery. Its Founder and President, Sandra Hindman, is Professor Emerita of Art History at Northwestern University. She has published dozens of academic books and articles on medieval manuscripts, early printing, the history of collecting, and historic jewellery. In 2023, the French Republic named Sandra Hindman Chevalière de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters).

Les Enluminures' institutional clients include the Musée du Louvre, the J. Paul Getty Museum, the National Gallery of Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the British Library and others. The gallery exhibits at many international art fairs including TEFAF Maastricht, Frieze Seoul, the Winter Show and EXPO Chicago (2024).

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

PRESS CONTACT: info@lesenluminures.com

Joy BC
"Gaze"

2024 | 950 platinum and white natural diamonds | Edition of 28 +2 APs



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Reliquary Pendant with Christ on the Cross

Germany | c. 1480–1500 | Gilded silver | Weight 35 grams | dimensions 69 × 46 × 8 mm



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Joy BC
"Tear"

2023 | Lapis Lazuli and gold leaf on paper | 600 x 800 mm



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The Hours of Le Goux de La Berchère (Use of Paris)

France, Paris | c. 1420 | Illuminations by the Master of the Munich Golden Legend | 165 × 120 mm



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