



'Sacred Texts' panelists to discuss contemporary book arts; texts in myriad faith traditions; digital future of books

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Summary: Three free, public panel discussions accompany globe-spanning MIAD exhibition February 7, 14, 21; 7 – 9 p.m. 273 E. Erie St. 414.847.3200.

PRESS RELEASE

MILWAUKEE... MIAD's globe-spanning exhibition, Sacred Texts/Contemporary Forms: Spiritual Traditions in the Digital Age," continues in February with three panel discussions by artists, representatives of myriad faith traditions, and book arts and collections experts. The exhibition, at Wisconsin's only independent college of art and design, runs through Feb. 24 in the Frederick Layton Gallery. Professor Leslie Fedorchuk is curator.

The free panel discussions will be held on three consecutive Wednesdays, 7 – 9 p.m. They are:

February 7: Contemporary Book Arts, An historical perspective of the contemporary books in the exhibit and how and why they were made.

Panelists include: Betty Bright, author and former curator for the Minnesota Center for Book Arts; Max Yela, Special Collections Librarian, UW-Milwaukee; contemporary book/exhibiting artists Lynne Avadenka and Elsi Vassdal Ellis.

February 14: Sacred Texts, Representatives of the myriad faith traditions in the exhibition will discuss the roles of historical texts and their current use.

Panelists include: Catherine Burdick, doctoral candidate in Meso-American Studies at the University of Illinois; Reverend Selena Fox, Senior Minister, Circle Sanctuary, Barneveld, Wis.; Moshe Katz, Milwaukee businessman/community activist; Reverend Tonen O'Connor, Resident Priest, Milwaukee Zen Center; Susan K. Wood, Professor of Theology, Marquette University.

February 21: Digital Future of Books, A discussion of how digital technology is changing the dissemination of information using sacred texts to move toward the broader issues involved.

Panelists include: Matt Blessing, Head of Special Collections and Archives, Marquette University; James Canary, Head of Special Collections Archive, Lilly Library, Indiana University; Cynthia Lynch, Librarian, Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design; Max Yela, Special Collections Librarian, UW-Milwaukee.

The Sacred Texts/Contemporary Forms exhibition brings together 30 artists who examine and reveal sacred texts in both revolutionary and traditional ways amid our rapidly changing digital culture. The artists' interpretations of timeless and varied spiritual messages through 80 works raise questions that art and faith often pose – a search for meaning and connections to the past and the future. The exhibition and its accompanying panel discussions are sponsored in part by grants from the Milwaukee Arts Board and the Wisconsin Humanities Council.

For more information on the exhibition and its participating artists, visit miad.edu.

MIAD is Wisconsin's only college devoted exclusively to the education of professional artists and designers. Founded in 1974, it is accredited to award the bachelor of fine arts degree in 11 majors. With 80% of its 1,800 graduates living and working in Wisconsin, the college contributes a vital "brain gain" to the state that shapes its creative and economic future.