

Redesigning the Medieval Book – The Design Brief

The brief is this: to respond to the medieval manuscripts and works in our accompanying medieval exhibition *Designing English*. You might respond in any one or more of these ways.

- You might respond to particular books or inscriptions in our exhibition (illustrated in the 'mood board').
- You might make a copy of one of the short English texts found in our exhibition (with some suggestions and excerpts in the 'anthology').
- You might address or continue one or other of the medieval craftspeople's particular challenges of designing and redesigning (seen in the 'mood board').
- You might react to the content of one of these objects or texts.

Responses might range from close imitation to looser inspiration, from delight to critique, from retrying something the medieval craftspeople did, to trying something they did not, but could not, or should have, or would have liked to. There is no restriction on styles or media. You might produce recognizable books or other artefacts with text.

To inspire you, there are three supporting documents.

- A press release about the accompany exhibition *Designing English*.
- A 'mood board' of slides of manuscripts and inscriptions which will appear in the *Designing English*, with some preliminary comments on the themes of that exhibition. A dozen of the artefacts were shown at the workshops in the Bodleian Library in March 2017; the remainder were not.
- An 'anthology' of short excerpts of works in Old English, Middle English and Latin which you might want to use in your book or artefact (but are not required to use). All the excerpts are given in the original language and in translation.

There are also two pieces of practical information.

- The terms and conditions, which set out deadlines and constraints on the size and weight of submissions, in order to make for a practicable competition and exhibition. There is no flexibility on the deadline. If your artistic vision will not fit the constraints, please do contact us as soon as possible, so that we can discuss them.
- A application form.

We look forward to seeing your work.

With best wishes,

Daniel Wakelin, Faculty of English, Oxford (daniel.wakelin@ell.ox.ac.uk)
and Madeline Slaven, Bodleian Library, Oxford (madeline.slaven@bodleian.ox.ac.uk).