HA 706/935: Seminar in Northern Renaissance Art
Text, Image, and Translation

“For when one sees a story illustrated, he sees the actions of the worthy men that lived in those times, just as though they were present. And when one hears a romance read aloud, he follows the adventures, just as though he saw them before him.”

Richard de Fournival, *Li Bestiaires d’amours*, 13th century

This seminar will tease out how manuscripts produced collaboratively by book publishers working with authors, scribes, and painters of illuminations mediate between readers, who live at a particular historical moment, and texts which often originated at a very different time and in a very different place. We will examine the construction and reception of visual images within luxurious illuminated manuscripts and early printed books asking the following question: What is the role of visual imagery in bridging linguistic, chronological and geographical divides? We will find answers through an approach that concentrates on analyzing the form and content of illustration within the physical object—the book itself—that contains them, always keeping in mind the relationships between word and image, the people involved in making the books, and the expectations of their intended audiences.

Professor Anne D. Hedeman
Wednesdays 2:30-5:00 PM
207 Spencer Museum of Art