Meet Stained-Glass Artist Jeffrey Miller
A Q&A with the artist featured in *Juggling the Middle Ages*
JUGGLING THE MIDDLE AGES

The tale of The Juggler of Notre Dame, created in the Middle Ages and rediscovered in the modern era, offers a fascinating bridge between the past and present. Each retelling of this story—and the story of this story—offers fresh insights into questions of faith, love, art, giving, and our complicated relationship with the medieval world.
How does a 21st-century artist transform a practice best known from medieval cathedrals? Discover one man’s answer in this interview with Paris-based stained-glass artist and restorer Jeffrey Miller. Miller was commissioned to make the stained-glass window, on display in the museum foyer, for the exhibition Juggling the Middle Ages. The window, on which he collaborated with his daughter—artist Sarah Navasse—and master craftsman Jeremy Bourdois, is the only stained-glass depiction of the medieval story known as the Juggler of Notre Dame and the newest object on display at the museum.

Modern Encounters with Medieval France

A Harvard medievalist explores highlights from Juggling the Middle Ages

What connects a vanishing Joan-of-Arc mural, a bloodshed-redeeming Parisian monument, bibliophilia, and a scandal of justice involving Émile Zola? Find out in this review by Harvard University medieval studies graduate student Hannah Weaver. Discussing recent Juggling the Middle Ages events held with the National Gallery of Art and preeminent scholars, Weaver reveals why encountering the medieval makes for fascinating discoveries.
Ellipse Garden Undergoes Ecological Restoration

A new project introduces healthy trees and soil

Landscape architect Beatrix Farrand designed the Ellipse to be “one of the quietest and most peaceful parts” in the Dumbarton Oaks Garden. But today, the aerial hedges (surrounding a grassy lawn and fountain) are in decline. After years of careful planning and preparation, the Ellipse renovation project began last month. Gardeners are replacing the hedges with locally grown trees of the same species and creating a customized soil blend to prolong the new trees’ lives. While the project is underway, the Ellipse remains closed. It reopens in the spring once planting is complete.

Apply now: Garden and Landscape Studies Graduate Workshop

Study urban landscapes and more this summer
Spend three weeks considering landscape history and theory, the ecological challenges of the Anthropocene, landscape urbanism, and other key interdisciplinary topics. With the support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, we are pleased to offer an intensive program for early-career landscape scholars and practitioners—typically PhD students and candidates or recent recipients of a Master in Landscape Architecture. Round-trip travel, accommodation, weekday lunches, two study sessions in the Rare Book Reading Room, visits to DC sites such as the National Mall, and a three-day stay with the Oak Spring Garden Foundation (a workshop collaborator) are included. **Applications are due March 15. Learn more and apply.**

**Dumbarton Oaks Curator Discovers Missing Half of Byzantine Seal**

Solving an 800-year-old mystery
For more than 60 years, it sat unidentified in the Dumbarton Oaks collection: a semicircle of lead engraved with exquisite craftsmanship, clearly belonging to a very important 12th- or 13th-century person. But the Byzantine seal was broken in two, with one half missing. Assistant Curator of Coins and Seals Jonathan Shea spent years trying to decipher the incomplete verses and identify the half-seal’s owner. Then one day in 2017, he made a discovery. Read how Shea and his collaborators cracked the case.

Scholars in the Spotlight

Catch up with our recent speakers and their research
James Zeidler illuminates 3,500 years of Ecuadorian history, synergizing archaeological and art-historical discoveries to show how simple pottery can reveal a society. Zeidler is a research scientist emeritus at Colorado State University.

Digital Tools and Online Treasures

Online Catalogue of Byzantine Seals

For centuries the Byzantines—from humble monks and laymen to highly placed grandees and emperors—used lead seals to “lock” official and private correspondence and to validate or authenticate documents. Thanks to an ambitious digitization project, more than half of the 17,000 seals in the Dumbarton Oaks collection are available online. Explore the online catalogue, complete with high-resolution images of thousands of seals, translations, transcriptions, measurements, and commentary. The digitized seals span the 4th through 15th centuries, lending considerable insight into the history of Byzantine art, economics, rulers, administration, military, religion, and much more. Curatorial staff regularly add new seals to the online catalogue.

Ongoing Programs
Open only through February 28, the exhibition *Juggling the Middle Ages* focuses on a medieval tale known as *Le jongleur de Notre-Dame*, or Our Lady’s tumbler. The exhibition follows the story from its rediscovery by scholars in the 1870s to its modern interpretations in children’s books. Along the way the exhibit delves into the role of the Middle Ages in fashioning modern European and American identities through architecture, art, music, and other media. Complementing the show are public lectures, a musical performance, and a series of family-focused events. *Juggling the Middle Ages* coincides with the publication of a number of books, including reissues of classic versions of the juggler story. [Learn more.](#)
Polonsky-Shifrin-Wiley Trio US premiere of renowned ensemble Sunday, February 10, 7 PM (SOLD OUT) and Monday, February 11, 8 PM

Garden and Landscape Lecture by Maurice Cox
Planning director for City of Detroit
Thursday, February 14, 6-8 pm

Eya Ensemble and Niccolo Seligmann
Family-friendly concert of medievalist melodies
Sunday, February 24, 2–4 pm

Music at Dumbarton Oaks—Howling Gaels
Irish sing-alongs for St. Patrick’s Day
Sunday, March 17, 7 pm (SOLD OUT) and Monday, March 18, 8 pm