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# Dumbarton Oaks

Research Library and Collection

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## Juggling the Middle Ages

Our exhibit exploring medievalism opens this month!



Opening October 16, "Juggling the Middle Ages" focuses on a medieval tale known as *Le Jongleur de Notre Dame*, or *Our Lady's Tumbler*, and 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. The opening of the exhibition coincides with the publication of a number of books, including reissues of classic versions of the juggler story. [Learn more](#).

## Reconsidering the Chavín Phenomenon in the 21st Century

**Pre-Columbian Symposium**  
**Friday and Saturday, October 5-6**



Chavín de Huántar has long been considered crucial to understanding the emergence of ancient Andean civilization during the late Initial Period (1100–800 BCE) and Early Horizon (800–400 BCE). Over the last fifteen years, a surge in archaeological research at Chavín and contemporary sites throughout the Andes has generated a wealth of new data that has created opportunities for a critical reassessment of models of interregional interaction during these periods. [This symposium](#) seeks to use these investigations to create an updated synthesis of Chavín as a regional phenomenon. The symposium is organized by Richard Burger (Yale University) and Jason Nesbitt (Tulane University).

This event is fully booked—waitlist only.

## Music at Dumbarton Oaks—Poulenc Trio

**Sunday, October 14, 7 pm**  
**Monday, October 15, 8 pm**



The Poulenc Trio, comprising the rare combination of oboe, bassoon, and piano, has performed around the world and in 45 US states. The Trio consists of pianist Irina Kaplan Lande, oboist James Austin Smith, and bassoonist Bryan Young. The group is committed to performing works by contemporary composers and has premiered 22 works written especially for them. The Trio frequently integrates music with other art forms, and they have collaborated with film animators, poets, and curators, as well as other musicians, including renowned violinist Hilary Hahn.

For their Dumbarton Oaks debut, the Trio is performing their namesake trio by Francis Poulenc, a French neoclassical composer; a work by André Previn, a jazz pianist and contemporary classical composer; two pieces by the prolific Dmitri Shostakovich, a 20th-century composer famous for his symphonies and chamber works who also wrote film scores; and a piece by Mikhail Glinka, who is often considered the fountainhead of Russian classical music. They round out the program with a commission from contemporary American composer Viet Cuong, *Trains of Thought*, which they premiered last year. [Subscribe for the season or purchase single-concert tickets.](#)

## **Anna Stavrakopoulou Joins Dumbarton Oaks as Program Director for Byzantine Studies**



Anna Stavrakopoulou joins our Byzantine Studies program as we forge ahead with expanding access to resources, augmenting outreach to scholars and students, increasing funding opportunities for Byzantinists, and growing the body of scholarship in the field. She will work with the director and the committee of senior fellows in Byzantine Studies to sustain an array of activities that have grown over the past decade to include, in addition to an international program of residential fellowships, new [short-term research awards](#) and [predoctoral residencies](#).

## Digital Tools and Online Treasures

### Moche Iconography

Our online portal contains 752 drawings of crab beings, bean warriors, the Circulator God, and other

forms rendered from fineline imagery wrapped around Moche vessels. The Moche culture (200–900 CE) is recognized as one of the first complex societies of the desert North Coast of Peru. Besides building monumental ritual temples and expansive irrigation systems, the Moche created prolific fineline art that offers insight into the rites, rituals, flora, fauna, and narrative myths of this ancient Peruvian culture.



Starting in 1968, Christopher B. Donnan photographed the entire surface of vessels from over two hundred museums and collections. Then Donna McClelland created rollout drawings of the iconography. Drawings feature both Donnan/McClelland categorization and cataloguing by recent Tyler fellow Ari Caramanica. [Explore the Moche Iconography resource](#) in English o en español.

## Upcoming Programs

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Music at Dumbarton Oaks—Poulenc Trio  
America's best known piano wind trio  
[October 14, 7 pm](#) & [October 15, 8 pm](#)



"What, in the World, Is Medievalism?"  
Lecture by Professor Richard Utz  
[October 25, 5:30 - 7:30 pm](#)



Family Day  
Live juggling, crafts, and book readings  
[October 27, 2 - 4 pm](#)



Music at Dumbarton Oaks—Les Délices  
Rococo works by a period ensemble  
[November 4, 7pm](#) & [November 5, 8 pm](#)

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