CABINET SIXTEEN: THE DARK NIGHT OF THE SOUL

T. S. Eliot, Four Quartets. London: Faber and Faber, 1944. Special Collections PS 3509.L43 F6 1944

CABINET SEVENTEEN: MODERNISM’S PRECURSORS

William Morris, Of the Friendship of Amis and Amile. Kemsing Press, 1894. Special Collections PZ 1425.A35 E49

CABINET EIGHTEEN: UNATTENDED MOMENTS

Marcel Proust, A La Recherche du Temps Perdu, tome I. [Paris]: Gallimard, 1914. Private Collection

VITRINES

1. Modernist Authors
2. Scholarship on Modernism
3. Medieval & Modern Influences on Modernist Literature
4. Modernist Music, Art, and Architecture

WALLS

M. C. Escher, ‘Ossian Sphere’ [1933].
The Shop of Fools (1589)
Chartres Cathedral, West façade
The Evangelical Symbols, Fol. 129 v. Book of Kells (ca. 800 AD)
Blast 1, June 20th, 1914. Edited by Wyndham Lewis

THANKS TO:

Chris Ackerley; Brett Bowles; M.C. Escher Foundation; John Hughes; Anne Jackman, Hewitson Library, Knox College, Dunedin; Donald Kerr; David Largy; the Marden Fund, Royal Society of New Zealand; Simone Marshall; Geoffrey Miles; Michael North; Peter Scott; Romilly Smith; and Marielle Sutherland.
The phrase 'Make it New' is frequently used in defining a key feature of modernism — its novelty — and is often regarded as influential and foundational in the development of modernist aesthetics. Yet when Ezra Pound employed the phrase for the first time in 1928, modernism’s major works had already appeared, and decades would pass before ‘Make it New’ gained significance and became a catchphrase and slogan. ‘Make it New’ was Pound’s rendering of a passage in Dai Xue, a historical Chinese text. Influenced by Christian belief as well, ‘Make it New’ became a model of change, of renaissance and renewal, in which the new is not simply a return to the old. Drawing on the work of those who have gone before, Making It New is a process of historical recycling, quotation, and re-arrangement.

In this exhibition, you will see examples of modernist writers Making it New. The exhibition has been mounted to coincide with the April conference, “Unattended Moments: The Medieval Presence” at the University of Otago. For this reason, it focuses on modernists who reinscribe medieval elements, including medieval forms, themes, and dialogues. It highlights the holdings of the University of Otago Libraries, in particular the treasures of the Charles Brasch collection. Please enjoy.

ITEMS ON DISPLAY

CABINET ONE: MAKE IT NEW! THE IMAGISTS

Ezra Pound, Make It New: Essays by Ezra Pound. London: Faber and Faber, 1934. Special Collections PS 3531 O82 A16 1934
Richard Aldington, ed., Imagist Anthology. 1930. Special Collections PR 605.16 198
___, Blast 2 [War Number, July 1915]. Santa Barbara, California: Black Sparrow Press, 1981. Special Collections PR 6023.E97 Z5 B5 1981
CABINET TWO: EZRA POUND

CABINET THREE: T. S. ELIOT AND DANTE

CABINET FOUR: DRAWER: PARABLE

CABINET FIVE: DRAWER: ROMANCE

Ernest Hemingway, The Sun Also Rises. New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1927. Special Collections PS 3515.E57 59 1927
CABINET SIX: THE WASTE LAND

CABINET SEVEN: JOYCE AND THE BOOK OF KELLS

CABINET NINE: DRAWER: MYTH AND LEGEND

CABINET TEN: DRAWER: NEOPLATONISM

CABINET ELEVEN: MEDIAEVAL MOTIFS

CABINET TWELVE: THE MUSE

CABINET THIRTEEN: DRAWER: HAGIOGRAPHY

CABINET FOURTEEN: THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

CABINET FIFTEEN: CHURCH ART AND ARCHITECTURE

Giuseppe Borini, Ravenna Mosaics: The Mausoleum of Galla Placidia, the Cathedral Baptistery, the Archipessal Chapel; the Baptistery of the Basilica of San Anastasio; the Church of San Vitale, the Basilica of San’Apollinare Nuovo, the Church of San Vitale. London: A. H. Bullen, 1902. Brussels PN 56.A5 M46
CABINET SIXTEEN: DRAWER: MYTH & THE MEDIEVAL PRESENCE

Modernism & the Medieval Presence

Lauretta Cleaver, ‘Unattended Moments: The Medieval Presence’ at the University of Otago. For this reason, it focuses on modernists who reinscribe medieval elements, including medieval forms, themes, and dialogues. It highlights the holdings of the University of Otago Libraries, in particular the treasures of the Charles Brasch collection. Please enjoy.