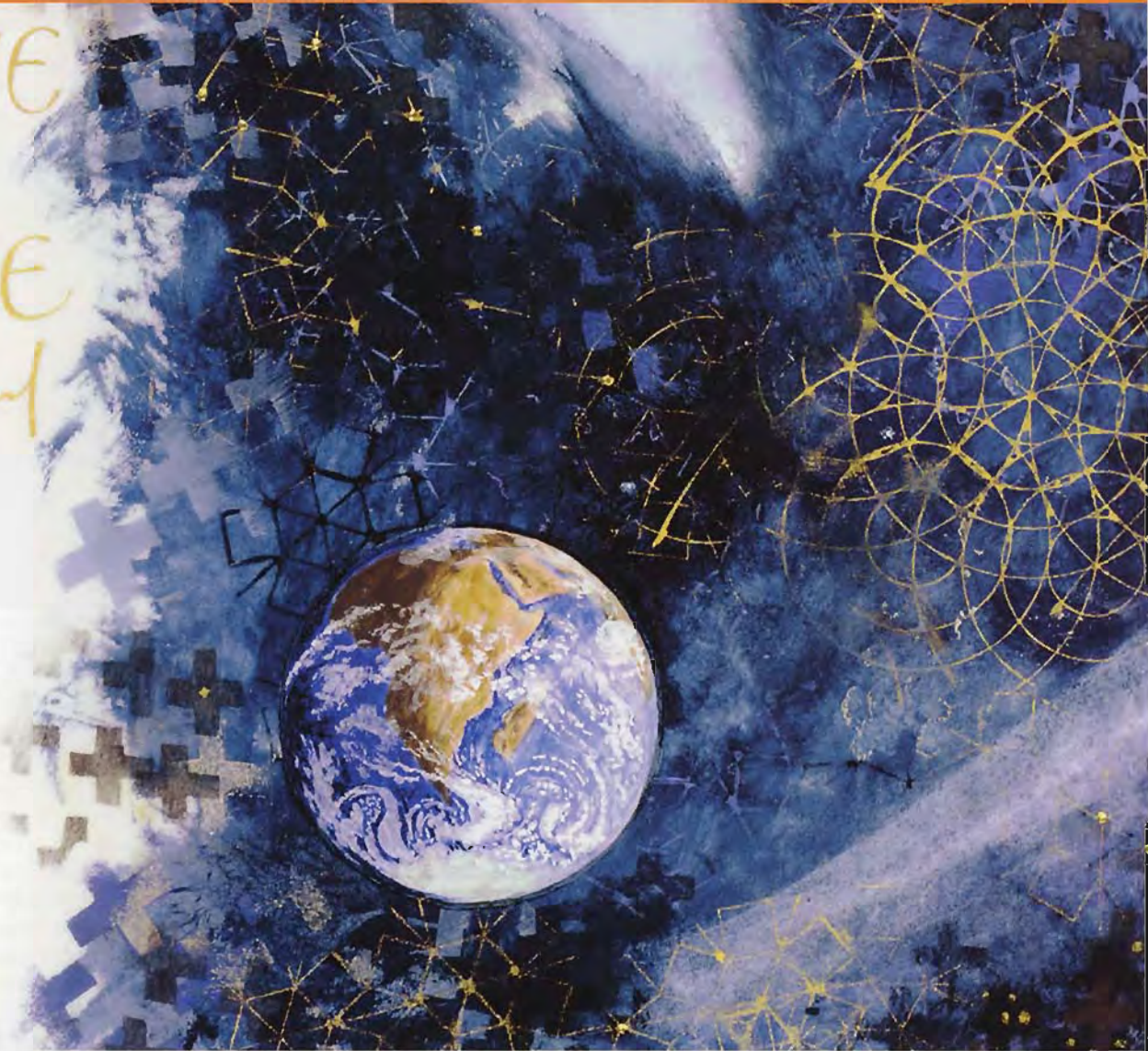


# JOSLYN ART MUSEUM

MEMBERS MAGAZINE

TO THE  
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EARTH



INSIDE:

*Illuminating the Word*

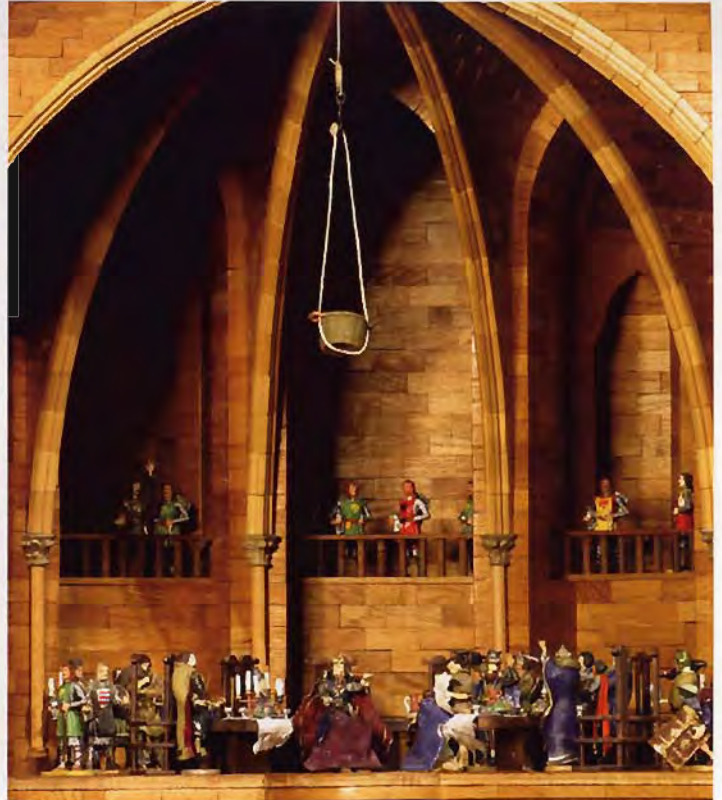
THE SAINT JOHN'S BIBLE

● FRENCH DONJONS: CASTLE OF COUCY, MEDIEVAL LIFE IN MINIATURE  
JUN KANEKO: MADAMA BUTTERFLY





## SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS



## FRENCH DONJONS: CASTLE OF COUCY, MEDIEVAL LIFE IN MINIATURE

February 4 - May 14

In the Middle Ages, centuries of conflict between France and England furthered the development of the art of building castles. The *donjon* or keep, the residential tower, became the prominent part of castle architecture and was always placed at a strategic point, where it stood as a symbol of power. This exhibition is an historically accurate representation, researched and built by the Society for Medieval Castle Science (SMCS) of Aachen, Germany, of the *donjon* that graced the castle of Coucy, situated some 75 miles northeast of Paris.

The residence of many powerful nobles of the Middle Ages, Coucy was famous for having the largest *donjon* ever built in Europe: 180 feet tall and 100 feet in diameter, with walls up to 24 feet thick. Constructed in 1226-28, it stood nearly 700 years, until it was destroyed in 1917 during World War I.

The model, recreated on a scale of 1:25, shows the siege in 1339, when England's King Edward III led an unsuccessful attack against the castle and its owner, Enguerrand de Coucy. The story of the siege is illustrated with some 2,500 handpainted figures representing both defenders and attackers. The soldiers, afoot or on horseback, are at work with weapons

and siege machines. One scene shows an exchange of prisoners and another, the treatment of the wounded. Medieval life apart from the siege is further depicted within the keep, allowing visitors to observe the courtly society at a banquet or during a knighting scene, as well as dancers and musicians, jugglers, pages, cooks, and artisans.

It took the Society two years to build the model of Coucy Castle — the same length of time it took to build the actual castle itself. The model is not meant to depict a snapshot moment in time but rather serves as a factual depiction of events that may have occurred during the siege. The handmade structure and painted figures are designed to give visitors a glimpse of the reality of life in Medieval times.

Local presentation of *French Donjons: Castle of Coucy, Medieval Life in Miniature* is made possible in part by Suzanne and Walter Scott and the Douglas County Commissioners.

Omaha World-Herald Gallery.

See page 2 for details about a *Castle of Coucy Family Fun Day*.

SPRING/SUMMER 2006

# JOSLYN ART MUSEUM

MEMBERS MAGAZINE

## SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS



### FRENCH DONJONS:

CASTLE OF COUCY, MEDIEVAL LIFE IN MINIATURE

*Through May 14*

The centerpiece of this exhibition is an eight-foot high model of the *donjon* (residential tower) of the castle at Coucy in France, situated some 75 miles northeast of Paris, and its grounds during the historic siege of 1339.

The residence of many powerful nobles of the Middle Ages, Coucy was famous for having the largest *donjon* ever built in Europe: 180 feet tall and 100 feet in diameter, with walls up to 24 feet thick. Constructed in 1226-28, it stood nearly 700 years, until it was destroyed in 1917 during World War I.

The model, recreated on a scale of 1:25, is populated with 2,500 individually crafted figurines representing both defenders and attackers. Medieval life apart from the siege is further depicted within the keep, allowing visitors to observe the courtly society at a banquet or during a knighting scene, as well as dancers and musicians, jugglers, pages, cooks, and artisans.

Local presentation of this exhibition is made possible by Suzanne and Walter Scott with additional support from the Douglas County Commissioners, Energy Systems, and the Omaha World-Herald.

Omaha World-Herald Gallery.