

Rudy

Rubrics, Images and Indulgences in Late Medieval Netherlandish Manuscripts

What role did images play in the mania for indulgences during the decades prior to the Protestant Reformation? Rubrics, Images and Indulgences in Late Medieval Netherlandish Manuscripts considers how indulgences (the remission of time in Purgatory) were used to market certain images. Conversely, images helped to spread indulgences, such as those attached to the Virgin in sole and the Mass of St Gregory. Images also began depicting the effects of indulgences: souls escaping Purgatory. Drawing on numerous unpublished sources, Kathryn M. Rudy demonstrates how rubrics modified behaviour and expectations around image-centred devotion. Her work is the first to analyse systematically the way that indulgences and images interacted – indeed, shaped each other – prior to the Reformation.

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202,50 €

189,25 € (zzgl. MwSt.)

Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage

Artikelnummer: 9789004326958

Medium: Buch

ISBN: 978-90-04-32695-8

Verlag: Brill

Erscheinungstermin: 01.01.2017

Sprache(n): Englisch

Auflage: i-xxii, 308 pp. With 152 full colour illustrations

Serie: Library of the Written Word / Library of the Written Word - The Manuscript World

Produktform: Gebunden

Gewicht: 1396 g

Seiten: 318

Format (B x H): 222 x 297 mm

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28.07.2024 | 12:25 Uhr

