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Medieval treats off the beaten track in Basel

by THE ART NEWSPAPER | 19 June 2016

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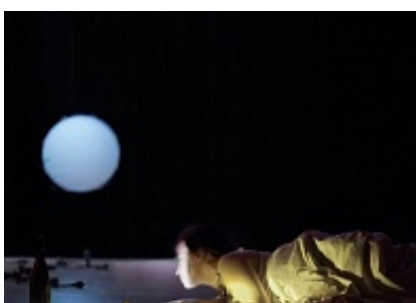
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All this conceptual contemporary art at Art Basel may well tire out some fairgoers; those feeling a little jaded by the Richters and the Kiefers, can head down a side street to the emporium of dealer Dr Jörn Günther, who is hosting an "open house" exhibition at his Basel base which overfloweth with illuminated manuscripts, miniatures and early printed books. Visitors to this kunstkammer can ponder over the first account of the New World after its discovery in 1493 written by Christopher Columbus (this rare edition of the text was published in Basel in 1494). A book of hours written in 1474 by Francesco Borromeo, a friend of Leonardo da Vinci, is another treat for medieval-mad connoisseurs eschewing the Modern art treats on the Messeplatz.

Miniature from The Book of Hours of Francesco Borromeo, Manuscript on Vellum, Italy, c.1474, courtesy: Jörn Günther

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