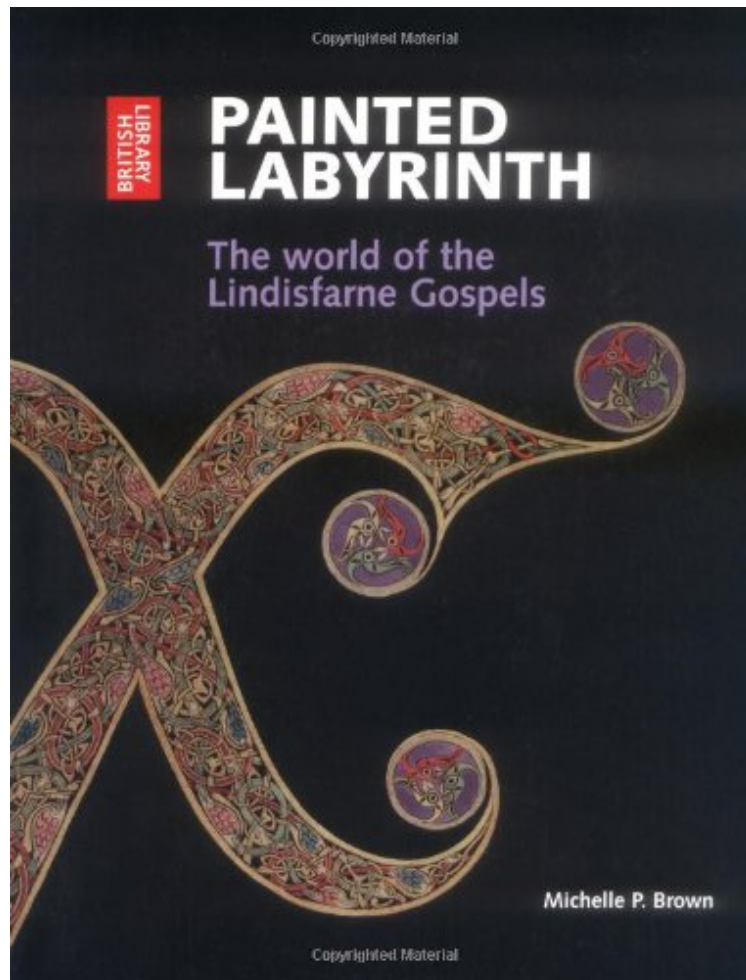


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The Painted Labyrinth

Michelle Brown

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Michelle Brown : The Painted Labyrinth before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Painted Labyrinth:

7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Famous pages are very small. By piclopse I had bought this book to use as an art reference--the Lindisfarne gospels are absolutely stunning, and I wanted good, high quality images of the main pages. But I was a little disappointed in that regard. The description calls this book "highly illustrated," but most of the illustrations are rather small and hard to make out. There are one or two full-page photographs, but they weren't any of the more beautiful pages... those highly desirable pages were shrunk to about a quarter of a page and crammed together. I know the book is very thin (only 40-ish pages), but I would have gladly traded the first 15 pages for a few more full color photographs! That being said, the book was worth the price. It still had "enough" illustrations and pages to satisfy me, even if I was disappointed that it wasn't as good as I had hoped it would be. So that's why it gets three

stars from me. It's an okay book, but a bit of a downer considering that the most famous pages are teeny tiny. 6 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful photos. By Carmen in MT. An interesting history of the art of hand printing books. Fantastic pictures. 23 of 24 people found the following review helpful. A real gem. By FrKurt Messick. In a mere 48 pages, author Michelle Brown, curator of illuminated manuscripts at the British Library, has put together a wonderful expose of the Lindisfarne Gospels, one of the beautiful illuminated productions to come out of the Irish monastic/scholarly traditions of the so-called Dark Ages. One can wonder how an age that could produce such exquisite books as the Lindisfarne Gospel could ever be called 'dark'. The Lindisfarne Gospel is a piece of art, and a piece of history. It is a significant milestone in the history of Celtic and Anglo-Saxon development. Brown's book has illuminations of a more modern sort on every page, pictures and graphics, illustrating the beauty, grandeur, and history of this great work. The Lindisfarne Gospels helped to define Christianity for the local culture, connecting it with the larger world of Christendom. The Lindisfarne Gospels' artistry lies not only in the beautiful pages, but in great attention to detail throughout. The colours and pages, the hinges and covers, the stitching and construction all testify to an unparalleled care for craftsmanship. The influences of Celtic and Anglo-Saxon imagery is clearly seen in the illuminations and construction, which in turn influenced the further development of those traditions. The calligraphy was influenced by Roman, Greek and Germanic lettering, blending things together in an astonishingly complementary way. This book would be a gem for the pictures alone; with the brief, insightful text by Michelle Brown, the book becomes a real gift to the reader.

Published to coincide with a British Library exhibition of the same name, *Painted Labyrinth: The World of the Lindisfarne Gospels* looks at the background and history of this breathtaking artwork and symbol of Christian faith. Both illustrated and readable, the book is divided into short sections, each examining an aspect of the Anglo-Saxon world, the heritage of the people who lived and ruled at this time, and how and why this great book was created. There is a list of suggested further reading, and a complete list of artifacts and manuscripts in the accompanying exhibition.

About the Author Michelle P. Brown is a renowned manuscripts specialist. She is the author of *The Lindisfarne Gospels: Society, Spirituality and the Scribe*.