Animal Magnetism: The Enduring Allure of the Bestiary

A runaway best seller in the Middle Ages, bestiaries catalogued and described animals (including the well-known siren, unicorn, and leontophone) and turned them into metaphors of religious doctrine and belief. Over the centuries, the idea of the bestiary has proven itself to be as riveting as the gaze of a cat. The emblem book, 17th century natural histories, and children's literature all owe a debt to this enduring literary form. See for yourself why a good animal story and great art always fascinates readers.

The exhibition was curated by Elizabeth Kirk, Associate Librarian for Information Resources, and was on display in the Class of 1965 Galleries from January 6 to February 28, 2010.

Materials Included in the Exhibition

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2. René de Bruc, marquis de Montplaisir (attributed). *Emblemes et devises chrestiennes et morales*. 168-? Manuscript Codex 002066  

