

# Part street party, part parade, pure inspiration

University of Maryland students  
and faculty use technology to bring  
400-year-old paintings to life.

**SIX PAINTINGS** by Denis van Alsloot – collectively known as the *Ommegang in Brussels on 31 May, 1615* – provide a rare glimpse of the kind of performances one would have seen on the streets of late medieval Europe. Three European museums provided high-resolution scans of the paintings. The most famous painting of the series is *The Triumph of Isabella*.

Sumptuous and highly detailed, *The Triumph of Isabella* is not only the focus of a new exhibition, but also the main inspiration for theater and dance students who have used it as a reference to design costumes, construct models, and showcase performances.

The exhibition underscores the ways in which artist-scholars use the resources of libraries and museums to enrich their understanding of performance.

Costume rendering with  
horse by Helen Q. Huang,  
Costume Design Professor.



## Join the yearlong celebration

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*An Exploration of Art  
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**September 20 and 23, 2018**

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# THE TRIUMPH OF ISABELLA



Text adapted from exhibition curated by librarian Drew Barker. Photos by Geoff Sheil and John T. Consoli.

## AN EXHIBIT EXPLORING PERFORMANCE THROUGH ART

**ON DISPLAY THROUGH MAY 2019**

Michelle Smith Performing Arts Library

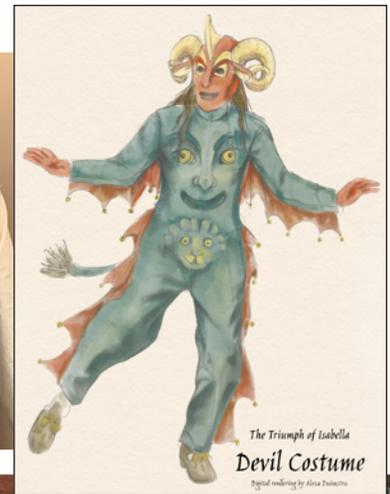
University of Maryland

Online exhibition: [www.lib.umd.edu/triumph](http://www.lib.umd.edu/triumph)

Immersive Experience: September 20 and 23, 2018



**DUTCH FOR “WALK AROUND,”** the term *ommegang* refers to a traditional procession or street display. Aristocrats, guilds, religious orders, and performers competed to show off their political and social importance; villagers dressed to impress their neighbors. MFA Costume Design students recreated some costumes depicted in the painting such as the devil’s costume shown at right. Books used by the curators and designers are included in the exhibit and are also available for loan.



**STUDENTS USE TECHNOLOGY** to study the paintings in minute detail. The Victoria & Albert Museum in London provided a high-resolution scan of *The Triumph of Isabella*.

**SIMILAR TO FLOATS** in a modern-day parade, pageant wagons illustrated scenes from religious stories or classical mythology. The panel at the Michelle Smith Performing Arts Library shows ten pageant wagons in total. *Right:* MFA Scenic Design students created a model of a wagon originally built in 1558 for the funeral procession of Isabella’s grandfather, Holy Roman Emperor Charles V.

