With their world in turmoil, the citizenry of the Middle Ages had little time or ambition for producing quality works of art. Also, gone was a strong centralized government or Empire for which to fund artistic endeavors.

An important contribution to the on-going development of visual arts and illustration was Illuminated Manuscripts. This new artistic form - Manuscript Illumination created by monks in monasteries allowed them to record and preserve precise knowledge and education in the form of the written word for future generations of learners and scholars.