

ST. ALBERT the GREAT
LETTERPRESS PRINT by DANIEL MITSUI



ARTWORK BY DANIEL MITSUI
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St. Albert the Great was a 13th century Dominican friar, bishop, philosopher and natural scientist. I depicted the saint seated at his desk, writing, surrounded by his books, bottles, instruments of calculation and devotional objects.

The ornamental border surrounding the central image was inspired by the borders in the Sherborne Missal, a 14th century illuminated manuscript. It contains flowering vines, tiny plants and animals, a Gothic monstrance holding an image of the Virgin Mary and Christ Child, the arms of the Order of Preachers in a quatrefoil, and the saint's family arms on a shield. In the bas-de-page I illustrated an old story told of St. Albert: he spent decades inventing a mechanical head that answered questions posed to it. St. Thomas Aquinas, either annoyed or frightened by the automaton, smashed it to pieces.

Medium: Letterpress print, based on an ink drawing
Press: Heidelberg cylinder (Rohner Letterpress, Chicago, IL)
Ink: Albion matte black (Graphic Chemical & Ink, Villa Park, IL)
Paper: Cotton wove (Reich Savoy)
Edges: Cut
Edition: Open, approximately 200
Dimensions: 7" × 10"
Year: 2015

Daniel Mitsui, Artist
www.danielmitsui.com
danielmitsuiartist@gmail.com