## FIRST, LIMITED, FACSIMILE EDITION

The world's last hand-transcribed and illustrated

## GOSPELS OF MARK AND JOHN

By Irakli Parjiani

@smartinnovations 2022





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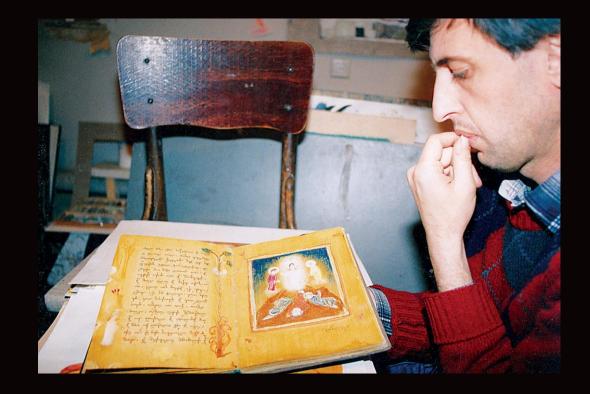


# — History —

### 1978 - 1979

# 1978, when religion remained the subject of ideological prohibition and persecution, Irakli Parjiani started transcribing and illustrating the Gospels.







In 1978, when religion remained the subject of ideological prohibition and persecution, Irakli Parjiani started transcribing and illustrating the Gospels. He dedicated one year to the studies in calligraphy and ancient manuscripts at the Institute of Manuscripts, and later continued working on his selected theme for two years. He fully copied the Gospels of John and Mark and illustrated them, producing the book of Mark in bound form and the book of John unbound. Later, he created relatively few illustrations for the Gospel of Luke. In much the same way as the handwritten books from the Middle Ages, Parjiani's version of the Gospel is a complete, finished manuscript decorated with miniatures, and elements of the headings and endings that combine into a single traditional and innovative work. The text is structured like a rosary – demonstrating the artist's diligence, as if he uses the text for praying while writing. The text of the Gospel of John is enriched with miniatures and individual images that resemble ruby, amber, emerald, turquoise, and purple gemstones scattered among the orderly structured lines. The book creates the illusion of a flourishing plant, where the text is formed through the stems, branches, and entangled roots. The miniatures dispersed on the paper represent open flowers and fruits that pulsate with internal energy. In this work the sensation of the illusion of a living object is very strong. This is the point of departure for Parjiani's entire oeuvre, reviving visual objects, turning them into "icons," keeping them on the verge of transformation, giving them a soul, melting them in space and transforming them into the light. According to the artist "all matters represent condensed light." His position of creating any object, character, space through the materialization of light supports the argument for the existence of the universe thanks to divine will. As such, all fields of his work: "metaphysical landscapes." the compositions of "the encounters." flowers, still-lives, portraits, the

Parjiani's Gospels simultaneously exude the scent of the Middle Ages, and in parallel bear the features of modern culture, uniting in one the canonical iconography of hand-written religious books with the independent interpretations of the artist. It is incredible that Soviet Georgia allowed the creation of a unique version of the Gospel that has no analogue. Parjiani acts like a copyist of the Medieval Gospels

- a feature he may have inherited from his ancestors of the school of copyists in Svaneti. This is the only occurrence of copying and illustrating the Gospel in Georgian painting since the Middle Ages. This act becomes even more remarkable when we recall that in the Soviet Union, working on the Gospel was dangerous for an artist, and the presentation of such a book remained completely unimaginable in the existing environment at that time.

Parjiani's work starts with illustrations of the Gospels and ends with the Berlin Cycle, in between he created a diversity of miniatures and monumental paintings. The artist unites the ideas, motives, and concepts of these two cycles, perfecting them through the application of his methods, knowledge, and mastery.

In Georgian art, his name is associated with the rehabilitation and transformation of religious paintings. All trends, motifs, themes, characters, or systems of symbols eventually merge into religious drawings, creating an independent individual model of his creativity. Irakli Parjiani is an amazing figure of Georgian art, who combined traditional and contemporary cultural systems, accumulated hidden knowledge about the universe, interpreted symbols and dreams, and the eternal themes of life and death, who "traveled" through metaphysical landscapes and painted the light. In the terrible realities of Georgia at the end of the 20th century, he managed to create a universe full of hidden tragedy, mysticism, the inevitability of vanity, and, at the same time, a celebratory presentation of life, which unites the aspects of light and beauty that are associated with eternal values. And, most importantly, thanks to his works he manages to convince us of their supremacy.

## FIRST, LIMITED, FACSIMILE EDITION

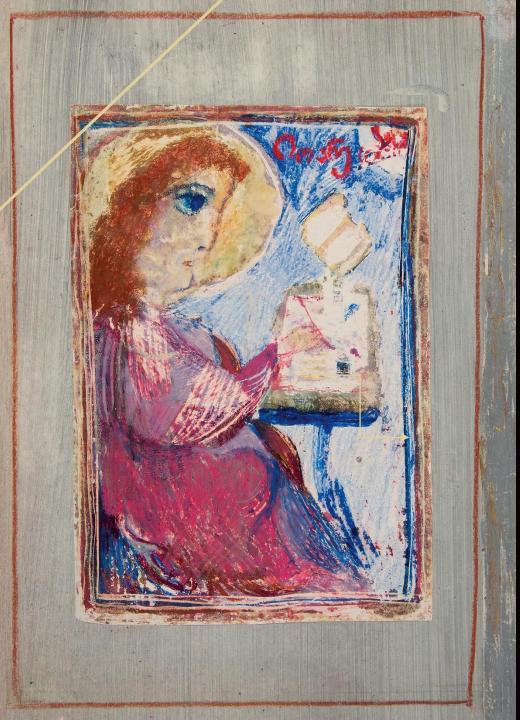
Unique books in world history

## Limited, collector's edition

Leather cover and specially designed box for each gospel

Gold and silver inlay for each copy

A facsimile is the technical-mechanical reproduction of a unique, effectively two-dimensional original, which eliminates any manual copying as much as possible, **retains a maximum of the original's intrinsic and extrinsic criteria**, uses all available technical means that guarantee the original's preservation and accessibility and thus satisfies scholarly and artistic interests. A facsimile must be as **true to the original as possible for scholarship and bibliophilia**.



## The Gospel of John 1978

35 x 42 mixed media 1978





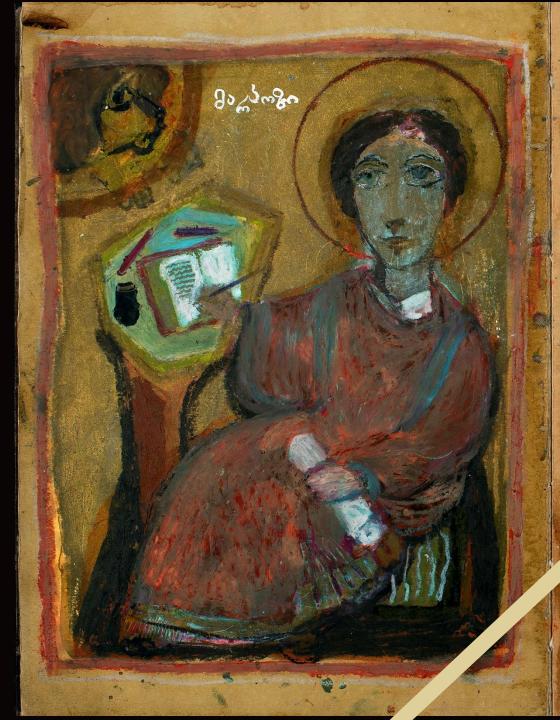




# The — Gospel of Mark

1979

19 x 25,5 mixed media 1979





# Gospel of Mark

1979 \_\_\_\_\_





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# Gospel of Mark

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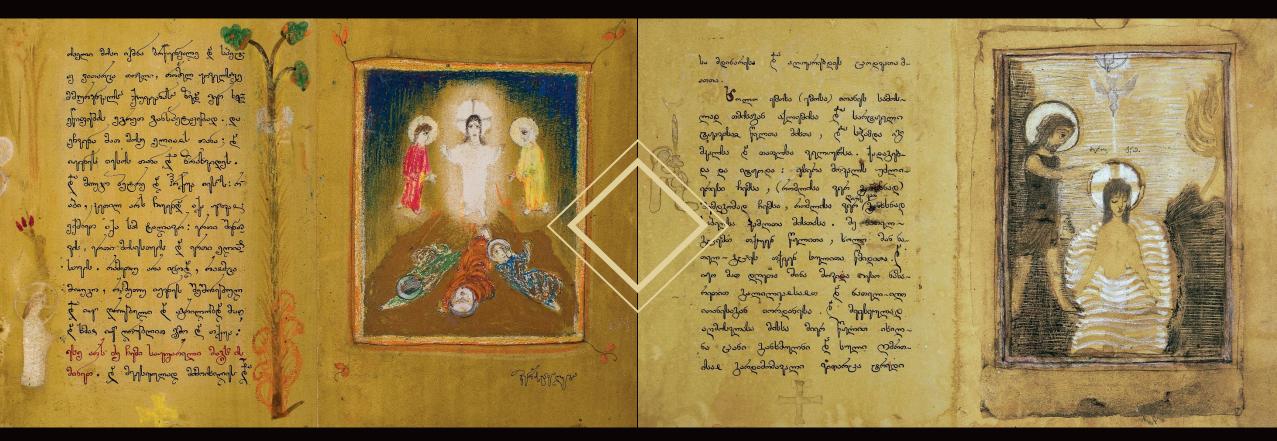
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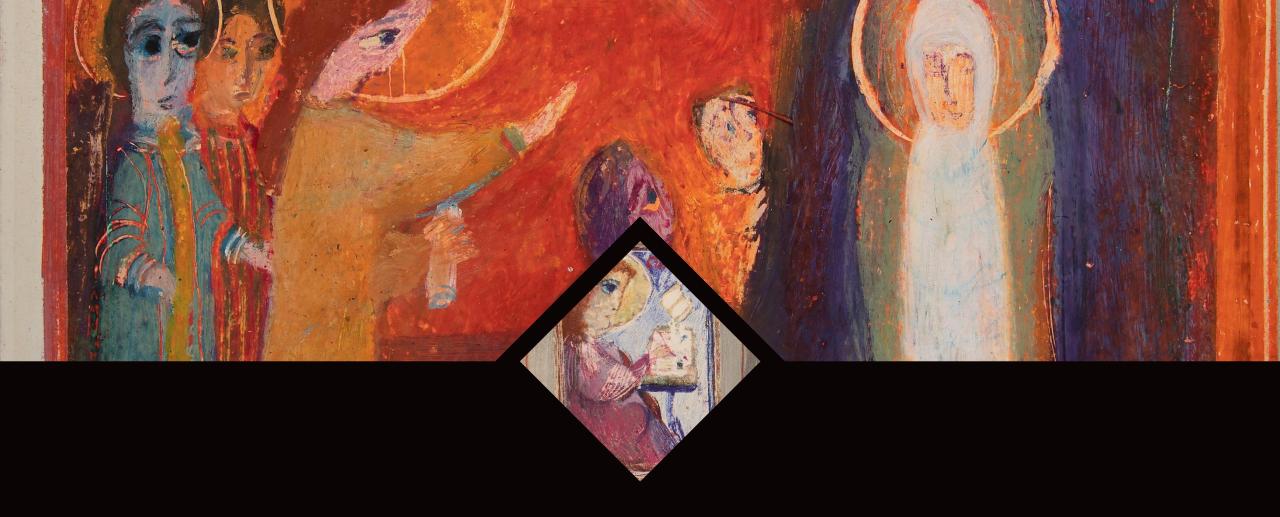
## Gospel of Mark

#### A gospels written like medieval manuscripts



Transfiguration

Baptism of Christ

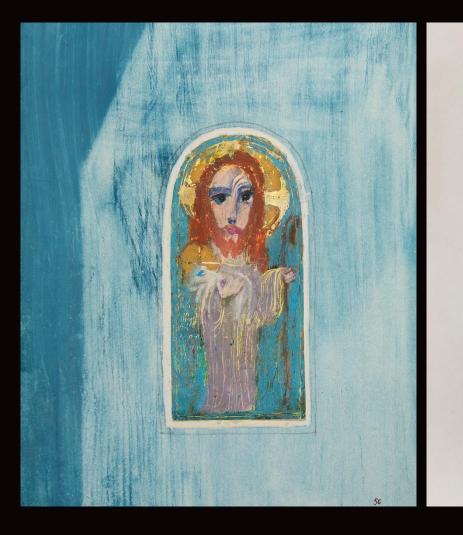


# Gospel of John

1978

## Gospel of John

#### A gospels written like medieval manuscripts





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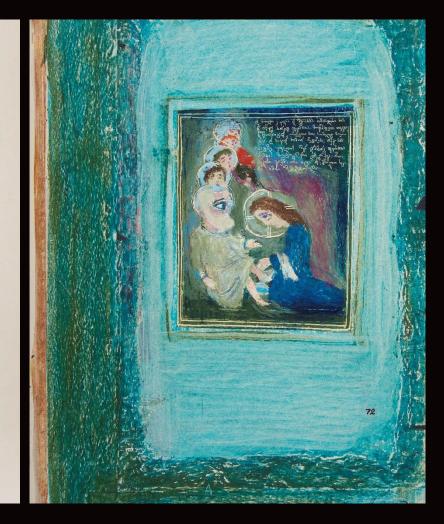
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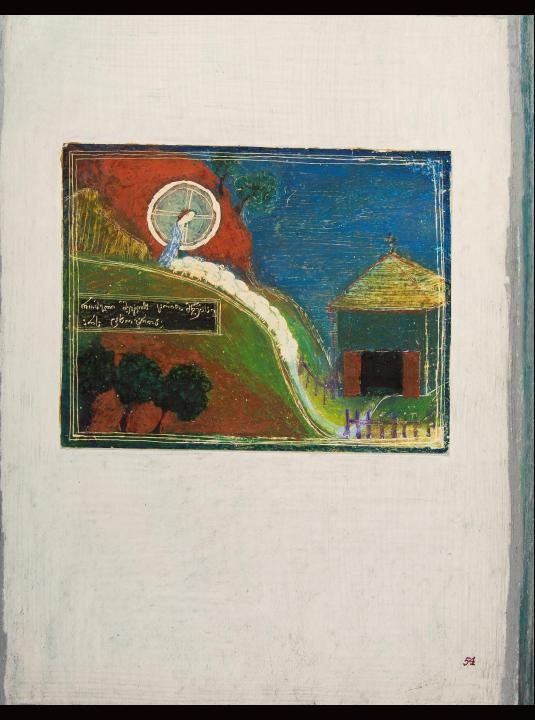
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# **"Facsimile Edition"**

Producing

### THE REPRODUCTION OF A MODERN MASTERPIECE

This presentation shows our idea of reproducing two handwritten masterpieces of book painting having been created in the second half of the 20th century by the famous Georgian artist Irakli Parjiani.

The manuscripts contain the Gospels, illustrated by the artist in his unique individual style and show the power of modern art in 20thcentury Georgia.

Our aim is to reproduce the manuscripts faithfully, to help to spread these unique creations, by making a Fine Art Facsimile Edition, bound in an exclusive way.



The faithful reproduction of Gospels manuscripts as a perfect gradient for the faithful reproduction of Gospels manuscripts as a perfect gradient for the faithful reproduction of Gospels manuscripts as a perfect gradient for the faithful reproduction of Gospels manuscripts as a perfect gradient for the faithful reproduction of Gospels manuscripts as a perfect gradient for the faithful reproduction of Gospels manuscripts as a perfect gradient for the faithful reproduction of Gospels manuscripts as a perfect gradient for the faithful reproduction of Gospels manuscripts as a perfect gradient for the faithful reproduction of Gospels manuscripts as a perfect gradient for the faithful reproduction of Gospels manuscripts as a perfect gradient for the faithful reproduction of Gospels manuscripts as a perfect gradient for the faithful reproduction of Gospels manuscripts as a perfect gradient for the faithful reproduction of Gospels manuscripts as a perfect gradient for the faithful reproduction of Gospels manuscripts as a perfect gradient for the faithful reproduction of Gospels manuscripts as a perfect gradient for the faithful reproduction of Gospels manuscripts and faithful reproduction of Gospels manuscripts and faithful reproduction of Gospels manuscripts and faithful reproductiont for the faithful reproduction of Gospels manuscripts and fait



Fine Art Facsimile Editions as true—to—the—original replicas Breath—taking artbooks and coffeetable books

### LA BIBLIOTHÈQUE IMAGINAIRE

Our primary goal is to preserve these masterpieces of all times and all cultures in manufacturing faithful, true-to-theoriginal Fine Art Facsimile Editions. In using the most modern technologies in combination with centuries-old craftsmanship, we are producing faithful complete reproductions of these manuscripts down to the smallest detail. Brilliant colours and radiant gold or silver, bonded to paper with the most advanced technical methods, show the same characteristics as the original; every page is border-cut true to the original. But also holes in the original's parchment or paper, exfoliations or remarks attached during the manuscript's living history as well as faults have to be included. Only then a true-to-the-original Fine Art Facsimile Edition – reproducing the original in every aspect – can replace the sumptuous original manuscript, for example in exhibitions or as very exclusive gifts. Our team consist of a group of highly specialized and professional experts for every step in the way of getting to the perfect reproduction of a unique original.

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## — INGREDIENTS FOR TOP RESULTS

#### - CRAFTS- MANSHIP, BEST MATERIALS AND TIME

To create our editions, we have a specialized an unique working team and we are only using materials of the highest quality – sophisticated and high-grade – to fit the book's content in the best way possible, but also to honour the intentions of the author: to create unique masterpieces with their impressive art, but also with the most precious materials.

Time is of the essence – that is why our book projects normally take more than a year: the time-consuming prepress work, the comparing travels, test printings and corrections even of the smalest differences; the highly sophisticated printing process with metallic applications; the individual cutting of the pages; and finally the binding of each volume and the creation of the boxes, done completely by hand using centuries-old craftsmanship (which especially is time-consuming).

All these parts of our work together allow us to reach the challenging goal we established for every single edition published in our companies: to recreate a single unique masterpiece, of course perfect in a technical way, but even more to catch ideas, visions and atmosphere of the time of the original's creation, to experience the culture, even to be able to feel the stories behind the artwork.

## HOW A FINE ART FACSIMILE EDITION IS MADE \_\_\_\_

#### DIGITALIZATION:

in most cases by a special high-resolution camera with 50 Megapixels. The precious original manuscript is held in place by a specially designed hand-made framework allowing to support single pages for digitalization without endangering the original; only cold light (2700 Lux) is used. The setup alone takes one day at least as the lighting is very delicate, because the final quality of the reproduction is already determined by the digitalization. A multiple shoot is required in order to get all the details of the original.

#### **PRE-PRINTING PROCESS:**

days or weeks of post-production of the files follow. Each page has to be reviewed, corrected and prepared for the printing process. The original colours are corrected by hand as they are not able to be reproduced automatically. A special task is the preparation of metallic colours such as gold or silver. For each of them, separate layers are created. Each gold or silver part has to be edited by hand.

#### HARD PROOFS FOR COMPARISON:

to ensure the best result, a first hard proof is produced and then compared to the original. If even minor variances in colour are discovered, they are corrected in the files. This procedure is repeated until the result meets our highest quality demands. The comparisons are realized as often as necessary in order to get as close as possible to the original.

#### PRINTING PROCESS:

the printing process itself usually is not very time-consuming, depending on the extent of the manuscript only. We are constantly screening and checking all details on every sheet during the process. There is always a person in place in order to check the printing results in comparisons with the colours and corrections realized on the original.

#### ATTACHING GOLD AND SILVER:

depending on the characteristics of the original, respective techniques and materials are used – from gold and silver foils or metallic dust to 23K real gold. Eventually it is necessary to recreate structure, embossing or patina as well.

#### BINDING – CENTURIES-OLD CRAFTSMANSHIP:

we always try to reproduce the original binding of a manuscript – if there is one. But sometimes, the original binding of the book is lost. In this case, we try to find adequate bindings from the appropriate period and culture. All materials are chosen to fit the characteristics of the original.

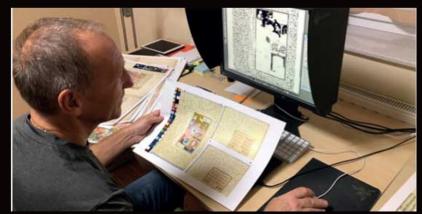




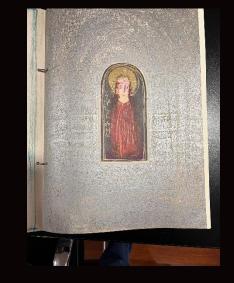


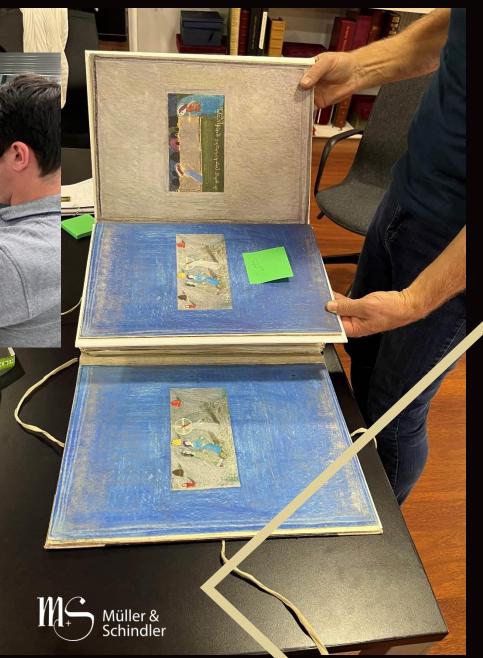












### THE REPRODUCTION OF TWO DIFFERENT VOLUMES OF A GOSPELS MANUSCRIPT

### EXCLUISVE COLLECTABLE LIMITED EDITION 100 PASPORTIZED AND HAND NUMBERED

#### **Volume 1 / Gospel of John**

Format:	35 x 42 cm portrait format
Extent:	130 pages
Printing:	4 colours on all pages, extra
Paper:	gold and silver printing
	170g Freelife Cento Extra White
Binding prepara	ation: Collate, fold, straight cut. Stitched. Three-sided silver foil book block. 2 extra images with gold foil glued on the first and last page Colophone with QR and chip glued at the end page. glued at the end page.
Binding:	White leather binding, embossing in silver and blind on U1, spine(blind) and U4(blind). 4 corner metal fittings, 1 metal clasp ( brass silvered and aged).
Box:	Clamshell, material white PU. Silver and blind embossing on the front, spine and back cover. Inside textile with grey foil embossing.Facsimile ready-made.
	100 Hand numbered copies

### **Volume 1 / Gospel of Mark**

Format:	19,5 x 25,5 cm portrait format	
Extent:	166 pages	
Printing:	4 colours on all pages, gold and	
Paper:	silver extra printing	
	170g Freelife Cento Extra White	
Binding preparation: Collate, fold, straight cut. Stitched. Three-sided gilted book block. Colophone with QR and chip glued at the end		
	page.	
Binding:	Specia ltwo tone textile in black/green woven, embossing in gold on U1. Recess for vignette, paste down vignette. 4 corner metal fittings(brass aged)	
Box:	clamshell, material beige PU thermoreactive. Goldand blind embossing on the front, spine and back cover. Inside textile paper with brown foil embossing. Facsimile ready-made. 100 hand numbered copies	
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### THE REPRODUCTION OF TWO DIFFERENT VOLUMES OF A GOSPELS MANUSCRIPT

#### COLLECTABLE FIRST LIMITED EDITION OF 900

#### **Volume 1 / Gospel of John**

Format: Extent: Printing: Paper:	<ul> <li>35 x 42 cm portrait format</li> <li>130 pages</li> <li>4 colours on all pages with</li> <li>gold and silver print</li> <li>170g Freelife Cento Extra White</li> </ul>	
Binding prepa	aration: Collate, fold, straight cut. Stitched. Three-sided silver foil book block .	
Binding:	PU material white embossing in silver and blind on U1, spine and U4.	
Cassette:	Clamshell in PU or textile. Silver and blind embossing on the front, spine and back cover. Facsimile ready-made.	
Edition:	900 copies	

### **Volume 1 / Gospel of Mark**

Format:	19,5 x 25,5 cm portrait format		
Extent:	166 pages		
Printing:	4 colours on all pages with		
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	170g Freelife Cento Extra White		
Binding prepara	Binding preparation: Collate, fold, straight cut. Stitched. Three-sided gilted book block.		
Binding:	PU dark brown/green embossing in gold.		
Cassette:			
Edition:	Clamshell in PU or textile. Gold and blind embossing on the front, spine and back cover.		
	900 copies		

Smart innovations LTD

## More information



Read more about gospels



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