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**The Eric Carle Museum Presents:
*Those Telling Lines: The Art of Virginia Lee Burton***

The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art is pleased to announce its newest exhibition, *Those Telling Lines: The Art of Virginia Lee Burton*, which opened on March 24, 2009 and remains on view until June 21. Although this exhibition celebrates the centenary of her birth, Virginia Lee Burton had modern concerns, balancing career and family life. This comprehensive retrospective offers a rare opportunity to see both the original art she created for her picture books and the designs she created for fabrics while she was an integral member of the Folly Cove Designers on the Massachusetts coast.

Special Events

We have a number of events surrounding this exhibition including:

- **Conversations with special guests** in the Auditorium including publishers, composers, and film producers
- **Hands-on public art programs** and activities in the Art Studio
- **Films** in the Auditorium including
 - Maestro Classics™ *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel* with original music by Stephen Simon, performed by the London Philharmonic Orchestra
 - *Katy and the Big Snow* with music by Robert J. Bradshaw as commissioned and premiered by the Cape Ann Symphony

A complete list of events is available online at
www.carlemuseum.org/Burton

About the Artist, Virginia Lee Burton

Of Burton, Nick Clark, Chief Curator, says, “[She] was a remarkable woman who was really ahead of her time: a non-labeled feminist, who was



able to juggle keeping house, raising two sons, and a vibrant artistic career. Her books, which look at big themes for little children, are timeless, as evidenced by the fact that all seven are still in print today.”

Virginia Lee Burton (1909-1968) is best remembered as an award-winning author and illustrator of children’s books, including *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel* (1939), *The Little House* (1942), *Katy and the Big Snow* (1943), and *Song of Robin Hood* (1947). In Burton’s books, machines endowed with human characteristics overcome difficult obstacles in a modern and fast-paced world. In detailed illustrations, Burton emphasizes the continued utility and adaptability of older machines—and the traditions they represent—with a sense of activity and industry.

In addition to her work in children’s literature, Burton was also a designer, painter, printmaker, and member of the Folly Cove Designers, a collective of artists who created printed fabrics using hand-carved linoleum blocks. Through this often forgotten group, Burton produced fabrics with elaborate patterns, designs, and even pictorial story lines that are as delightful and as distinctive as her children’s books.

This exhibition is curated by Barbara Elleman, a member of The Carle’s Board of Trustees. Elleman was a school and public librarian before working at the American Library Association’s *Booklist* magazine; as editor-in-chief of *Book Links*. A published author, Elleman wrote several books including *Virginia Lee Burton: A Life in Art* (Houghton, 2002). Support for the exhibition *Those Telling Lines: The Art of Virginia Lee Burton* has been provided in part by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

About The Museum

Together with his wife Barbara, Eric Carle, the renowned author and illustrator of more than 70 books, including the 1969 classic *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, founded The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art as the first full-scale museum in this country devoted to national and international picture book art, conceived and built with the aim of celebrating the art that we are first exposed to as children. Through the exploration of images that are familiar and beloved, it is the Museum’s goal to provide an enriching, dynamic, and supportive context for the



development of literacy and to foster in visitors of all ages and backgrounds the confidence to appreciate and enjoy art of every kind.

The Museum—which houses three galleries dedicated to rotating exhibitions of picture book art, a hands-on Art Studio, a Reading Library, an Auditorium, a Café, and a Museum Shop—is located at 125 West Bay Road, Amherst, MA. Museum hours are Tuesday through Friday 10 am to 4 pm, Saturday 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday 12 noon to 5 pm. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for children under 18, and \$20 for a family of four. For further information and directions, call 413-658-1100 or visit the Museum’s website at www.carlemuseum.org.

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