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CONTEMPORARY ILLUSTRATION FROM THE CELEBRATION OF GODUTCH!

**On view at The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art
from March 28 to June 25, 2006**

AMHERST, March 2006 - On view from March 28 to June 25, 2006 at The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, *Dutch Treats: Contemporary Illustration from the Netherlands* will highlight the diverse styles of fourteen leading Dutch artists who have become internationally renowned for their picture book illustrations. Having premiered in New York City this winter at the UBS Art Gallery (1285 Avenue of the Americas), *Dutch Treats* offers art lovers of all ages a rare and engaging look into the high-style world of Dutch illustration.

Curated by Truusje Vrooland-Lob, the Netherlands leading authority on children's illustrated literature, the exhibition will highlight more than 80 works on paper dating from the mid-twentieth century through today, ranging from bold, geometrical collages to fanciful watercolors to detailed pen and ink drawings. In addition to works by well-known artists Dick Bruna (of *Miffy* fame), Max Velthuijs (of *Frog* fame) and Fiep Westendorp, whose books have gained a strong following in the United States, the show will also feature illustrations by Hans de Beer, Annemarie van Haeringen, Friso Henstra, Philip Hopman, Yvonne Jagtenberg, Ceseli Josephus Jitta, Jan Jutte, Dieter and Ingrid Schubert, Thé Tjong-Khing and Sylvia Weve. Exploring these original works, Museum visitors will enjoy noticing details and nuances that are not always visible on the printed pages of a book.

Pioneering Artists

Internationally acclaimed illustrators Dick Bruna, Fiep Westendorp and Max Velthuijs employ distinctive styles and clever narratives in their picture book art. Bright primary colors and boldly contoured forms are hallmarks of Dick Bruna's work. In *Miffy at the Museum* (1997), Bruna's most famous character is shown gazing at the work of Dutch painter Piet Mondrian, whose abstract minimalism has influenced Bruna's illustrations.

The work of Max Velthuijs features harmonious and simple compositions. In *Frog and the Stranger* (1993), the bright palette and clearly defined forms set a lighthearted and cheerful tone. Fiep Westendorp uses strong graphics and iconic silhouettes in her whimsical and humorous collages of the young troublemakers Jip and Janneke.

Exploration and Adventure

Works on view by Dieter and Ingrid Schubert, Hans de Beer, Annemarie van Haeringen, Philip Hopman, Yvonne Jagtenberg, Ceseli Joephus Jitta and Thé Tjong-Khing depict scenes of fantastical and everyday adventures. The Schuberts' impressionistic watercolor illustrations show anthropomorphic creatures exploring their environment, allowing a glimpse into the secret lives of animals. Hans de Beer employs light and shadow for dramatic effect and captures the mysterious and frightening aspects of exploration in *Alexander the Great* (2000), the tale of a brave mouse challenging a menacing cat.

Action

Creative depictions of physical movement often appear in the illustrations of Friso Henstra, Jan Jutte and Sylvia Weve, who create characters and scenes brimming with energy and activity. Friso Henstra's *Mighty Mizzling Mouse* (1983) pictures a crowd of people, an alligator, an ostrich and other beasts running across the page in a moment of spontaneous and frenetic action. Jan Jutte's comic strip style images are also often packed with figures in motion. In *Get Up!* (1998), Jutte juxtaposes the kicking, yelling and prodding of two small boys against the tranquility of the elephant they are attempting to rouse.

This exhibition has been made possible in part by generous support from UBS and by a grant from the Mondriaan Foundation, Amsterdam. Additional support has been received from The Consulate General of The Netherlands in New York and the Foundation of Production and Translation of Dutch Literature.



This exhibit is part of *GoDutch!* Massachusetts' Pioneer Valley wide celebration of Dutch art and culture Spring/Summer 2006. www.valleyvisitor.com/godutch

Events planned in conjunction with the exhibition include...

Saturday, April 8, 11:00 am

Dutch Delights: A Taste of Children's Literature from the Netherlands

Truusje Vrooland-Löb, the Netherlands leading specialist on children's book illustration and guest curator, will engage, delight, and inform listeners of all ages as she shares some of her favorite Dutch stories. *Free with Museum Admission.*

Saturday, May 27, 1:00 and 3:00 pm

Tales and Treats

Join puppeteer Marilyn Price as she weaves a finely crafted version of the classic tale of *Hans Brinker* or *The Silver Skates* by American writer Mary Elizabeth Mapes Dodge. Her original puppets inspired by the art from *Dutch Treats*, will amaze and delight listeners of all ages. *Free with Museum Admission.*

Saturday, June 17

Dutch Treats: Museum's 3rd Annual Family Festival and Benefit Gala

Come with the kids on Saturday, June 17 for a family festival featuring the Noggin-famous music of MILKSHAKE, as well as a host of Dutch-themed art and merrymaking in celebration of the Museum's exhibition, *Dutch Treats: Contemporary Illustration from the Netherlands*. Return that evening sans tots to tiptoe through the tulips and enjoy a posh evening of dancing and delicious Dutch treats...including the debut of The Windmill Fizz.

The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art is a museum dedicated to exploring the role of visual art in children's literature from around the world. Founded in part by Eric Carle, the renowned author and illustrator of more than 70 books printed in 30 languages, including the 1969 classic *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, the Museum offers exhibitions and programming that encourage inquiry, foster an appreciation for the visual arts, and engage, delight, and inspire children and families.

The Museum—which houses three galleries dedicated to rotating exhibitions of picture book art, a hands-on Art Studio, a Reading Library, an Auditorium, and a popular Café and Museum Shop—is located at 125 West Bay Road, Amherst, MA. Museum hours

are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday 12 noon to 4 p.m.
Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for children under 18, and \$20 for a family of four. For
further in formation and directions, call 413-658-1100 or visit www.picturebookart.org.

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