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The Carle Presents: The Art of Eric Carle – Family and Friends

The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art will present **The Art of Eric Carle: Family and Friends** in the West Gallery from April 1, 2011 through September 4, 2011. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the publication of *Do You Want To Be My Friend?*, the inspiration for this exhibition. The book, dedicated to Eric Carle's boyhood friend Carlton Mayer, is Carle's favorite. After Carle moved to Germany with his parents in 1935, Mayer wrote him and said he wanted see him again. This friendship spanned the continents and remained strong. They reunited in 1952 when Eric returned to The United States.

To celebrate this anniversary and this friendship, the Museum has selected a group of works from this book and several others where friendship is an underlying theme. In some cases these bonds are between people, as in *The Tiny Seed* (1987); in others, such as *The Lamb and Butterfly* (1988), animals befriend each other. In a recent book, *Where Are You Going? To See My Friend*, friendship connects two cultures – Japan and America. Then, to point out the folly of not wanting friendship, *The Grouchy Ladybug* will also be included.

“In addition to enjoying the original works of art created for these books, this exhibition will give families and friends the opportunity to learn more about Eric, see some early drafts of his work, and reflect on friendship as a source of artistic inspiration,” said Executive Director Alexandra Kennedy.

In honor of Eric's enduring connections and collaboration with his friends in Japan, there will also be a related exhibition in The Carle's Reading Library. This display comprises digital prints of images from modern Japanese picture books that share similar graphic qualities or imaginative themes as those in Eric's works.

Accompanying the exhibition are gallery activities, related films, story times, and art activities. Eric Carle will visit the Museum on July 16 for his annual book signing. For more information about The Carle and upcoming events, please visit www.carlemuseum.org

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 \$9 for adults, \$6 for children under 18, and \$22.50 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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