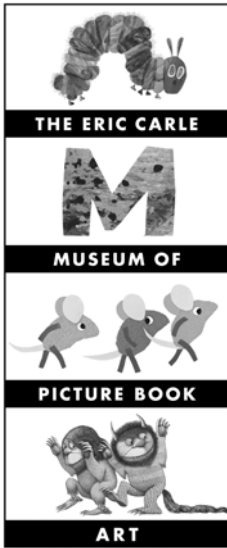


ERIC CARLE



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Eric Carle is the acclaimed creator of brilliantly illustrated and innovatively designed picture books for children. His best-known work, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* (1969), has been translated into more than 30 languages and has sold over seventeen million copies. Since its publication, Eric Carle has illustrated more than seventy books, many best sellers, most of which he also wrote.

Born in Syracuse, New York, in 1929, Eric Carle moved with his parents to Germany when he was six years old. Educated in Germany, Carle graduated from the prestigious Stuttgart art school, the Akademie der bildenden Künste, but his dream was to return to America, the land of his happiest childhood memories. In 1952, with a portfolio in hand and forty dollars in his pocket, he arrived in New York and soon found a job as a graphic designer for *The New York Times*, and later became the art director of an advertising agency.

When respected educator and author, Bill Martin, Jr. saw a picture of a lobster Eric Carle had created for an advertisement, he invited Carle to illustrate a story he had written. The result of this collaboration was Eric Carle's first children's book, *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?*, which was published in 1967.

Eric Carle's art is distinctive and instantly recognizable. His illustrations are created in collage technique, using hand-painted tissue papers, which he cuts and layers to form bright and cheerful images. The themes of his stories are usually drawn from his knowledge and love of nature. In addition to being beautiful and entertaining, his books offer children the opportunity to learn about the world around them. His concern for children, for their feelings and their inquisitiveness, for their creativity and their intellectual growth, makes the reading of his books a stimulating and lasting experience.

In addition to creating books, Eric Carle and his wife Barbara have spent the past several years helping to establish The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, which opened its doors to the public in November 2002. The Museum exhibits the work of national and international picture book artists, as well as provides dynamic educational programming, performances, lectures, and hands-on art activities for visitors of all ages. The newly constructed 40,000 square foot building is situated in a 7.5-acre apple orchard adjacent to the Hampshire College campus in Amherst, MA.