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**CALDECOTT-WINNING ILLUSTRATOR'S WORK
NOW ON DISPLAY AT THE CARLE**
**Eric Carle Museum showcases art organized
in honor of Allen Say's 70th birthday**

Amherst, Mass. (July 12, 2007) - The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art presents **The Art of Allen Say: A Sense of Place**, open now through October 28, 2007. This exhibit is curated by Samuel C. Morse, Professor, Department of Fine Arts and Asian Languages and Civilizations, Amherst College, and is supported in part by a gift from Walter Lorraine Books, an imprint of Houghton Mifflin Books for Children.

“It is a great pleasure to host this exhibition of Allen’s work, which deals with highly complex themes depicted with exquisite sensitivity in the demanding medium of watercolor,” states Museum Director, Nick Clark. “His work is an affirmation of how sophisticated great picture book art can be.”

Organized in honor of Allen Say’s 70th birthday, *The Art of Allen Say: A Sense of Place* explores both the technical mastery and thematic complexity of this prolific artist and author. Trained as a commercial photographer, Say found his place writing and illustrating children’s books somewhat by chance in the 1970s. Author of more than twenty works since then, including *Grandfather’s Journey* (1993), which won the Caldecott Medal in 1994, Say has spent much of his career exploring the rich divide between his Japanese youth and his American coming of age. It is his ability to convey sentiments of alienation and dislocation in ways that speak directly to children that make his books so remarkable. The exhibition is comprised mostly of Say’s illustrations for books, but also contains examples of his commercial photography and oil painting to underscore the full measure of his creative talent, as well as his unifying aesthetic.

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EXHIBITION RELATED EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

The Carle will feature a number of programs and events in connection with *The Art of Allen Say: A Sense of Place*.

Through a Multicultural Lens: A Critical Framework for Evaluating Children's Literature

Wednesday, July 18, 2007, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

\$40 (Members \$35) Includes Registration and Materials Fee.

With a focus on illustrated children's literature depicting Asian-American subjects, in honor of the Allen Say exhibition, we will use Rudine Sims Bishop's seminal text *Shadow and Substance: Afro-American Experience in Contemporary Children's Fiction* (1982) as the framework for evaluating children's literature from a multicultural perspective. (3 PDPs) Instructor: Megan Lambert. Registration required (413) 658-1155.

Motoko

Saturday, July 21, 2007, 1:00 pm

Free with Museum Admission

As a master storyteller, Motoko weaves a performance which is a unique blend of mime and the oral tradition. Through folktales and her own childhood memories of Japan, her stories promote an understanding of Japanese history and culture while highlighting the universality of the human experience. A magical presentation for listeners of all ages.

Odaiko New England

Saturday, August 18, 2007, 1:00 pm

Free with Museum Admission

Experience the power and rhythm of taiko. Learn how to kiai (a type of vocalization) and see the various styles of Japanese drumming. Odaiko New England, as "keepers of rhythm", share the importance of culture and music in community building as they create the new tradition of American taiko.

A Sense of Place: The Art of Allen Say

Monday, August 20, 2007, 11:00 am - 5:00 pm

Free

Beginning with a presentation by Professor K. Scott Wong from Williams College and with a focus on the art of Allen Say, the various parts of this workshop will establish the profound links between visual and verbal literacy; suggest ways educators can use the art, design, and content of picture books to enhance their curriculum; and provide a rich overview of curricular resources including those available at FCCEAS. (6 PDPs) Instructors: Rosemary Agoglia and Megan Lambert and staff from FCCEAS. *FREE with support from The Massachusetts Geographic Alliance and the Freeman Foundation through the Center's National Consortium for Teaching about Asia program.* For more information or to register for this workshop, email Maureen Stephens at fcceas@email.smith.edu.

A Conversation with Allen Say presented by The Carle and Amherst College

Thursday, October 4, 2007, 7:30 pm

Free

This event will be held at 115 Fayerweather, Amherst College. Many of Allen Say's books address the struggle of being caught between two cultures and finding one's identity. Join Professor Barry O'Connell, Department of English and Professor Samuel C. Morse, Department of Art and Art History and Asian Languages and Civilizations in a conversation with Allen Say about cultural dislocation and one's sense of place.

Meet the Artist

Sunday, October 7, 2007, 12:30 - 2:30 pm

Free with Museum Admission.

Meet Allen Say! In an effort to make this very popular series more accessible we have made it free with Museum Admission. Please feel free to come at noon and purchase a bite to eat in the café before attending the illustrator's presentation at 12:30. A book signing will follow the presentation. This series is recommended

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for adults and for children of kindergarten age and older. Educators who attend will receive 1 PDP per session.

Kamishibai with Dianne Clouet

Sunday, October 13, 2007, 2:00 pm

Free with Museum Admission

Share in Allen Say's childhood experiences by taking part in the magic of Japanese kamishibai as a storytelling technique.

For more information on **Upcoming Events**, visit
http://www.picturebookart.org/Programs_Events/Upcoming

ABOUT THE MUSEUM

Founded in part by Eric Carle, the renowned author and illustrator of more than 70 books, including the 1969 classic *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, and his wife Barbara, The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art is 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 popular 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. The Carle is a non-profit 501c3 institution. For further information and directions, call 413-658-1100 or visit the Museum's website at www.picturebookart.org.

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For additional press information and/or images,
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