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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stompin' at The Carle Richard Yarde exhibit opens at The Eric Carle Museum

Amherst, Mass. (December 27, 2006) - The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art has announced the opening on Friday, December 22 of the exhibition **Richard Yarde: Stompin' at the Savoy**. The exhibit will run through April 29, 2007.

"I had the pleasure of hosting Richard's installation piece of the Savoy Ballroom in 1984," states Museum Director Nick Clark, "and it is wonderful to see how he has adapted his love for this venerable institution into an eminently accessible yet visually rich vehicle for a young audience."

Richard Yarde is one of the foremost watercolor painters working in America today. A passionate lover of music and dance, he has found inspiration many times in the irrepressible energy of the Savoy Ballroom, which from 1926 to 1958 was home to some of the greatest dances and musicians of the swing era. In creating his first book for children, Yarde teamed up with equally accomplished author, Bebe Moore Campbell, to tell a story deeply rooted in the themes and symbols of the African American experience of a little girl, Mindy, whose reluctance to perform evaporates when she is spirited away to the Savoy Ballroom. The exhibit is dedicated to Ms. Moore Campbell, who passed away November 27, 2006.

Mr. Yarde is a professor of art at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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.

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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 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday 12 noon to 5 p.m. 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.picturebookart.org.

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