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## NEW EXHIBITION TO EXPLORE THE ART OF LISBETH ZWERGER

**An Exquisite Vision: The Art of Lisbeth Zwerger June 29 – September 26, 2010**

The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art is pleased to present **An Exquisite Vision: The Art of Lisbeth Zwerger** from June 29 through September 26, 2010. Zwerger, an Austrian artist, is one of the foremost illustrators working today. In 1990, at the age of thirty-six, she received the Hans Christian Andersen medal—the equivalent of the Noble Prize for children's literature—recognizing her lifetime achievement and contribution to children's literature.

Zwerger's range of subjects is noteworthy, encompassing many classic stories and authors, such as the Brothers Grimm, O. Henry, Oscar Wilde, Charles Dickens, and L. Frank Baum. Her *Noah's Ark*, *Little Red Cap*, and *The Wizard of Oz* were all selected by *The New York Times* as a "Best Illustrated Books of the Year." From *The Strange Child* by ETA Hoffmann in 1977 to *The Pied Piper of Hamelin* in 2009, she has illustrated more than 35 books.

Zwerger's beginnings as an artist were less auspicious. As a young student in Vienna in 1972, she dropped out of art school, frustrated and disillusioned, because none of her teachers thought the art of illustration was a worthwhile endeavor. She recalls, "I was often told, or rather warned, of the difficulties involved in finding work, and criticized for not being 'modern' enough, which naturally left me feeling totally confused, not really knowing what direction my work should take."

The turning point occurred when a friend showed her a book illustrated by Arthur Rackham: "Suddenly something seemed to click, my doubts vanished, and I felt inspired to illustrate again." Zwerger worked initially in black and white, concentrating on composition, technique, and accuracy of detail while open and vague backgrounds created a dramatic contrast. Over the years, she added more color and spatial complexity to her work by combining ink and watercolor. The influence of Arthur Rackham's gnarly, knotted line drawings of trees and similarly described fantasy creatures can still be felt in Zwerger's delicately wrought pen and ink line work. Where Rackham has grit, Zwerger finds deftness and delicacy.

Surveying Zwerger's career through a variety of works, the exhibition comprises examples from all of her major projects, thus constituting a true retrospective. In addition to books already mentioned, a partial list includes: *Swan Lake*, *The Nutcracker*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Aesop's Fables*, *How the Camel Got Its Hump*, and *Dwarf Nose*.

There will be additional programming surrounding the exhibition. Visit [www.carlemuseum.org](http://www.carlemuseum.org) for more information.

### **Additional Museum Programming for Lisbeth Zwerger Exhibition:**

An Exquisite Vision: The Art of Lisbeth Zwerger  
Exhibition Opening Reception for Museum Members

July 10, 2010

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Join us for an intimate Members' evening to celebrate the opening of our newest exhibition and meet Lisbeth Zwerger

Lisbeth Zwerger: The Art and Evolution of her Illustrations

July 11, 2010

1:00 pm

Free with Museum Admission

**(I PDP)** Using examples from her illustrations for *The Nutcracker*, Zwerger will talk about the evolution of art.

*Book signing to follow.*

Amherst Ballet Interprets the Magical World of Lisbeth Zwerger

August 28 - August 29, 2010

1:00 pm and 3:00 pm

Free with Museum Admission

See some of the tales illustrated by Zwerger come alive with the grace and attention to detail so characteristic of this artist.

### **About The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art**

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. The Museum is open Mondays in July and August. 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](http://www.carlemuseum.org).

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