In its short history, The Carle has become one of the premier repositories in the country for picture book art. In honor of its 15th anniversary, the Museum has assembled an all-star lineup of work from its permanent collection with a special focus on its most recent gifts and purchases. Included in Treasures from the Collection: A 15-Year Celebration, on view in the East Gallery from November 19 to April 1, 2018, are masterworks by Don Freeman, Trina Schart Hyman, Dorothy Lathrop, Leo Lionni, Arnold Lobel, David Macaulay, James Marshall, Petra Mathers, Wendell Minor, Jerry Pinkney, Uri Shulevitz, William Steig, Simms Taback, Tony DiTerlizzi, Chris Van Allsburg, Mo Willems, Garth Williams, Paul O. Zelinsky, Lisbeth Zwerger, and others. These are just a few of the highlights among the more than 11,000 objects the Museum cares for every day!

Holmes’ vibrant 2015 paper collage or adjacent to a Walter Harrison Cady oil painting (added to the collection just six weeks prior to the opening). Visitors can learn the fascinating stories about the creation of these works and hear how these invaluable pieces came into the collection. They are invited to create storybooks in the gallery, while a playful installation provides ample occasions for exploration and photo opportunities. A “fun facts” trivia wall reveals the Museum’s first, oldest, and largest artworks in the collection.

Rarely seen three-dimensional objects are also featured, including dummy books, artist sketchbooks, and hand-carved printing blocks. Some of the dummy books have been reproduced so guests can read through them. A selection of artist doodles and sketches—drawn over 15 years by artists visiting The Carle—make up a display in the auditorium hallway. In conjunction with the exhibition, The Carle will launch its Curator’s Choice online blog, providing in-depth examinations of some of the featured artworks on display. The Members’ Reception is November 18, featuring gourmet pizza, local beer, and a trivia contest emceed by picture book authors Angela DiTerlizzi and Heidi Stemple.

Two illustrations from The Carle’s permanent collection to be featured in the 15th anniversary exhibition this fall.

Please Support the Annual Appeal

Late each fall, we launch our Annual Appeal, a critical fundraiser for The Carle. Your contributions ensure that we continue to provide inspiring exhibitions and hundreds of arts activities to our visitors in Amherst while offering traveling exhibitions and educational outreach around the world. We apply this “unrestricted” support where we need it most, making it invaluable.

Will you join me in contributing to this year’s annual appeal? All donors will be acknowledged on our donor board at the front of the Museum—our small way of saying thank you for being an important friend of The Carle.

You can donate at carlemuseum.org/give or by contacting Rebecca Miller Goggins, director of development, at 413-559-6308 or rebeccag@carlemuseum.org.

Introducing Bobbie’s Meadow

If you’ve visited the Museum this fall, you’ve seen that we are well underway with the construction of Bobbie’s Meadow, the official name now for what we previously referred to as Bobbie’s Garden. This new space, which will create a park-like setting among our old apple trees, will invite visitors to stroll its paths, play, draw, read, picnic—or just sit and enjoy the fresh air.

When Eric and Bobbie Carle moved to Western Massachusetts in the 1970s, Bobbie co-founded a preschool at which children of all abilities learned and played together in one classroom. It feels important and fitting that this outdoor space, which pays tribute to Bobbie and her legacy, will be wheelchair- and stroller-accessible, making it possible for all of our visitors to enjoy the orchard for the first time.

Bobbie was also an environmentalist. The path, which will meander through some of the oldest, craggiest trees in the orchard, will be bordered on one side by a new meadow. We experimented this summer with letting sections of the current turf grow wild and will start our meadow experimentation in earnest next summer. Some areas will consist of the current grasses, seeded with wildflowers; others will be freshly planted with new grasses and wildflowers. This fresh habitat will be a welcome home for birds, butterflies, and other insects. We look forward to creating programs—community installations, outdoor exhibitions, and outdoor workshops—that take advantage of this addition to our beautiful property.

Bobbie’s Meadow has been a new and exciting creative challenge for the staff. We pride ourselves on being good partners and have learned so much from the talented landscape architects from M+S LA of Berkeley, California, and Klopfer Martin Design Group of Boston, as well as the team at Wright Builders in Northampton that is overseeing the construction. All of us share a single goal: to create a space that honors The Carle’s beloved co-founder.

On a picture-perfect sunny day this past June, we broke ground on Bobbie’s Meadow. At a breakfast event for donors to the project, Eric remarked, “Today is a bitter and sweet day for me. Sweet that we shall start Bobbie’s Meadow, bitter that she is not with me and us. But knowing Bobbie, I suspect she is here.”

I suspected that too, Eric.

Alix Kennedy
Executive Director
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Photo of Eric Carle © Jim Gipe / Pivot Media.
The History of the Caldecott

*Eighty Years of Caldecott Books*, on exhibition in the Central Gallery from December 12 to May 13, 2018, brings together 79 first-edition Caldecott Medal books for The Carle’s first book-focused exhibition. The newest winner, to be announced in February 2018, will be added to the display early next year. In the meantime, visitors are encouraged to vote for their favorite contender!

While the books themselves are valuable artifacts, it is the art inside for which they are celebrated. Accompanying the presentation are original illustrations from several winning titles, including artwork by Ed Emberley (*Drummer Hoff*), Mordicai Gerstein (*The Man Who Walked Between the Towers*), Emily Arnold McCully (*Mirette on the High Wire*), and Javaka Steptoe (*Radiant Child*). Also showcased is a selection of art by Marcia Brown, the Caldecott’s first “triple-crown” winner (*Cinderella, Once a Mouse, and Shadow*).

The Caldecott medal is named in honor of 19th-century British illustrator Randolph Caldecott. It is bestowed annually by the Association of Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association, to “the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children published in the United States during the preceding year.” Visitors will learn fun facts and test their knowledge of Caldecott trivia. (Can you name the five husband-and-wife teams who have won a Caldecott Medal?)

This exhibition is co-curated by Ellen Keiter, our chief curator, and Barbara Elleman, former trustee. Elleman’s personal Caldecott book collection will be on display.

The Magic of Nighttime

Many of Eric Carle’s illustrations portray cheerful suns and soulful moons. While Carle traditionally leaves his daytime skies the white of the paper, he evocatively paints his nighttime scenes in deep blues and indigos. His visible brushwork is often sprinkled with twinkling stars, fireflies, and other creatures of the night. The moon—in all its phases—regularly displays a gentle face. “The calm moon is a source of comfort in the night,” says Carle.

*The Art of Eric Carle: Night*, on view in the West Gallery through March 18, 2018, features original artwork from *Papa, Please Get the Moon for Me; Dream Snow; The Very Quiet Cricket*, and more than 15 other titles. Several pieces from *Draw Me a Star* are also included to mark the 25th anniversary of the book’s publication. Visitors are invited to make fun “moon shadows” on a heat-sensitive, painted wall and explore colors and patterns at two Starry Night light tables. A specially-constructed Night Stroll creates a magical experience for guests of all ages.

Exhibitions in this gallery are generously supported by the Hsin-Yi Foundation.
On September 28 at Guastavino’s in Manhattan, Eric Carle got a standing ovation as he took to the stage to welcome 300 guests to the 12th annual Carle Honors. “I would like to take this occasion to congratulate the honorees,” he said. “You honor all of us at the Museum as well.”

With wit and heart, author Jack Gantos presented the awards to Ed Young (Artist), Dr. John Y. Cole from the Library of Congress (Angel), translator Anthea Bell (Bridge), and Bank Street Writers Lab, represented by Dr. Cynthia Weill (Mentor). Gantos captured the spirit of the awards—and the evening—in his introductory remarks:

One thing I want you to take away tonight (along with the art) is a small thought that can fit in any pocket. Imagine this—when a child puts on his pajamas and climbs into a bed and reaches out and pulls a book from the bedside table—and when he opens that book and reads it—slowly—thoroughly—and then finishes the book and lets it drop to the floor and goes to sleep, something mysterious happens that we may not know how to define—but this much is true—when the child awakes in the morning, the book on the floor will be the exact same book—it has not changed—but the child will never be quite the same.
Highlights of the evening included Oliver Kamm’s poignant remarks on behalf of his mother, Anthea Bell, who is ill and was unable to attend. He noted that she has won many awards—even the Order of the British Empire—but this award feels the most important because of her love of young readers. When Ed Young took the stage, he presented two framed original works of art—each a wolf created by pinholes—as gifts of thanks to his longtime editors, Patricia Gauch and Ann K. Beneduce.

After the ceremony, guests enjoyed dinner and cocktails and bid on the 25 artworks that made up the auction. In addition to Eric Carle and Ed Young, many contributing artists were in attendance: Bryan Collier, Mike Curato, Laurie Keller, Barbara McClintock, Jon J Muth, Judy Schachner, Brendan Wenzel, and Mo Willems. The auction raised a record $74,000 to support our programs!

Our gratitude to the night’s co-chairs, Annie Lionni and Adrianne Lobel, and the many companies and individuals who supported this year’s event, especially our major supporters: Patrick and Jane Bayard Curley; Robert and Lydia Forbes; Disney Publishing Worldwide; Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group; Penguin Young Readers Group; and Scholastic, Inc.

Photos by Johnny Wolf Photography.
A Special Friendship

More than 100 guests filled the auditorium on July 27 for a special program, “In Conversation: Eric Carle and Annie Lionni,” an opportunity for the two friends to share stories about the influential designer and illustrator Leo Lionni and consider the intersections in Eric’s and Leo’s artistic careers. Annie has overseen her grandfather’s publishing legacy since he passed away in 1999.

The stage was adorned with posters that Eric brought with him to New York in 1952, when he returned to the United States in search of employment in graphic design. He even showed the audience the cardboard suitcase in which he carried them. Lionni helped Eric get his first job, working in the promotions department at The New York Times. Later in their careers, both artists started writing and illustrating children’s books, now recognized worldwide for their colorful collage art.

The event was recorded by filmmaker Kate Geis, a member of The Carle’s Board of Directors. The film will be included in a Leo Lionni exhibition planned in Japan for 2018.

David Wiesner Returns to The Carle

For the past 15 years, The Carle has presented an annual Educators’ Night, a free evening in celebration of teachers and librarians, featuring speakers and offering classroom supplies donated by publishing companies. On October 25, this year’s Educators’ Night features David Wiesner, the three-time winner of the Caldecott Medal, as our keynote speaker. His work, on display in the exhibition David Wiesner & The Art of Wordless Storytelling, will be the perfect backdrop to a presentation about his life and process. Participants will be treated to a sneak peek at his newest wordless picture book, I Got It!, to be released in Spring 2018.

Also on the schedule: Alison Sparks, Visiting Scholar at Amherst College, will speak on her experiences as an evaluator of The Carle’s Bonding with Books family literacy outreach program.

Inspirations

Collecting Inspiration: Contemporary Illustrators and Their Heroes, on view through November 26, highlights the motivations and inspirations of 19 talented contemporary artists. To celebrate these artists—and those who inspired them—The Carle will host Inspiration Day on October 7. Exhibition co-curators Tony DiTerlizzi and Mo Willems will be joined by Sophie Blackall, Sandra Boynton, Bryan Collier, Laurie Keller, Loren Long, LeUyen Pham, Jerry Pinkney, and Robin Preiss Glasser for a full day of artist panels, book signings, and special story times. Can’t get to the exhibition? The Carle staff created a short film about the making of the exhibition, available on carlemuseum.org.

Our Apologies In the previous edition of Sowing the Seeds, we neglected to list Judy Schachner as one of the featured artists in Collecting Inspiration. We apologize for the oversight!
Interning at The Carle

Every year, The Carle offers internships for undergraduate or graduate-level students as well as recent graduates interested in museum studies, the arts, and education. Internships are available in the Art Studio, Curatorial, Development & Marketing, and Administration departments. In 2017, the Museum welcomed eight summer interns. Pictured here are Hannah Dieringer, who served as the Alix Zacharias Leadership and Administration Intern, and Poppy (Lingxin) Pu, the Alix Zacharias Development Intern. They presented to staff a review of the surveys they conducted over the summer with visitors and members.

Art Classes for Older Adults

In 2017, The Carle hosted three eight-week art classes specifically designed for adults 55 and older. The series was funded by a $24,500 grant from Aroha Philanthropies as part of its Seeding Vitality Arts initiative, which showcases the benefits that arts can bring to health and well-being. Each class focused on techniques used by picture book artists in the Museum’s permanent collection: printmaking, collage, and bookmaking. Classes were held in the Art Studio and facilitated by teaching artists with assistance from Museum staff and volunteers.

Each week, participants gathered to explore new techniques and to make art.

At the conclusion of the class, work was displayed in a group exhibition. As one printmaking participant from a nearby retirement community said, “What is wonderful is the positive outlook and the creativity you feel while you are doing this.”

Artist Micha Archer, author and illustrator of the book Daniel Finds a Poem and recipient of the 2017 Ezra Jack Keats Book Award for best new illustrator, taught the collage class. Ekua Holmes, winner of a Caldecott Honor, was a visiting artist. One participant talked about the impact of Archer’s facilitation: “I can hear Micha in my head, saying, ‘have fun, work quickly, and don’t think!’—great advice for art, collage, and life in general.”
You Are Never Too Old or Too Young for Picture Books!

Become a member today! Receive great benefits, such as free admission, 15 percent off in The Carle Bookshop, priority line placement, special invitations, and free gifts—all while supporting the Museum!
Visit carlemuseum.org/membership or call 413-559-6310.

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