New Experiences with Picture Book Art

Moon shadows. Trivia games. Postcard projects. These are some of the activities guests have recently enjoyed in the Museum’s galleries, in addition to—of course!—viewing picture book art. Over the past two years, The Carle has made a concerted effort to transform its galleries into welcoming and engaging places for guests of all ages.

The initiative includes the placement of new family totes, available in the gallery entrance. These bags are full of activities to stimulate exploration and creativity. Included are “conversation cubes” with questions prompting guests to share ideas with one another while viewing art; clipboards with paper and colored pencils for writing and sketching; and books representing artworks on view. Rotating activity sheets and scavenger hunts also encourage visitors to take a closer look. We’ve added more detailed labels describing the art—including those for caretakers to share with children—as well as comfortable seating areas and area rugs for young crawlers. The viewing experience is now brighter, too, with environmentally-friendly LED lights in all three galleries.

Guests are spending more time interacting with our exhibitions now—a sign these changes are meeting with approval.

Last summer, during a color-themed exhibition, visitors wrote more than 10,000 postcards to Eric Carle, drawing pictures and composing stories about their favorite colors. As part of the exhibition Collecting Inspiration, guests sat at artists’ drafting tables to make thousands of drawings inspired by the artwork on the walls. This winter, children and adults alike discovered illuminated pegboards, voted for their favorite Caldecott Medal book contenders, and twirled to the twinkling lights and cricket sounds in our Night Stroll, an immersive environment in Carle’s exhibition of nighttime scenes.

A 2016 change in Museum policy, allowing visitor photography in the galleries, helped launch our series of “shareable moment” designs. Today, in most exhibitions, we create opportunities for playful photo ops, from afternoon tea with Eloise and Nanny to walk-in treasure boxes constructed from shipping crates in our 15th anniversary show. Next stop: a double-decker London bus in the Paddington exhibition!

The primary focus for The Carle’s exhibitions is, and will always be, a celebration of picture book art. We are delighted to now deepen and enhance that experience for all of our visitors with these playful additions. Please let us know your thoughts on the changes when you visit us next!
Double Your Gift to The Carle!

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous friend of Eric Carle and the late Barbara Carle, we are thrilled to offer our largest-ever challenge grant to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Museum. Any gift to our annual fund will be matched 2:1, up to $100,000!

This incredible gift means the world to all of us at The Carle, but most importantly, to all of the families, artists, authors, teachers, librarians, donors, and collectors who are part of our community and who will benefit from the resources this match will generate.

Please join us in this exciting campaign, and double your gift to The Carle today. Call Rebecca Miller Goggins at 413-559-6308 or email rebeccag@carlemuseum.org

Letting Our Hair Down

In November, we had a full house for the members’ opening of our anniversary exhibition, *Treasures from the Collection: A 15-Year Celebration*. The show, which features 112 objects representing the more than 7,000 in the collection, has a playful art-crate design theme to underscore the concept of hidden treasures. Many of the artists whose work is included were on hand to celebrate—Christin Couture, Ariane Dewey, Tony DiTerlizzi, Ed Emberley, Will Hillenbrand, Barbara McClintock, Wendell Minor, Matthew Van Fleet, Mo Willems, and Paul O. Zelinsky—as well as collectors who have given so generously to the Museum, helping us build a world-class collection in just 15 years.

Putting aside our more serious selves (and our usual dignified wine-and-cheese-with-a-lecture format), we turned the evening into a laugh-filled night of trivia and good-hearted competition, with music and graphics from classic TV game shows. Children’s book authors (and very good sports!) Angela DiTerlizzi and Heidi Stemple emceed the raucous trivia game, which included identifying works from The Carle’s collection and answering children’s literature questions like these:

1. Which author/illustrator won a Newbery Honor award in 2017 at age 93?
2. Which well-known author used the pen name Golden MacDonald?
3. Which picture book artist was the founder of the renowned textile collective The Folly Cove Designers?

The winning team walked away with signed Eric Carle books.

It was fun for all of us on staff to shake things up that night. It was a very busy year, with exhibitions traveling here and abroad (reaching more than 780,000 people!); many special events in Amherst; new Museum publications; and—behind the scenes—the execution of major grants.

We’re so grateful for the dedication and good humor of our many supporters, and eager to usher in the next phase for The Carle. Thank you. You’ve made all of it possible.

Alix Kennedy
*Executive Director*
alixk@carlemuseum.org

An Artist for All Seasons

In honor of the opening of Bobbie’s Meadow in June, The Carle is proud to present *The Art of Eric Carle: Seasons*, a celebration of nature at all times of the year, on view April 3 to August 26. The changing seasons guide many of Carle’s books, like *The Tiny Seed* (1970) and, in more of a supporting role, Alice McLerran’s *The Mountain that Loved a Bird* (1985). On view will be hibernating bears in winter, hatching chicks in spring, colorful flowers in summer, and apple trees ripe for picking in fall. This exhibition features Carle’s iconic collage art from 15 picture books as well as several never-before seen watercolors. Also on display is a selection of personal artwork Carle gave to his late wife, Barbara “Bobbie” Carle, during their long marriage.

This exhibition is made possible through the generous support of the Hsin-Yi Foundation.

A Legend Pays a Visit

This coming April, The Carle is proud to be the first American museum to feature the beloved bear in *Paddington™ Comes to America*, on view April 14 to October 7. From 32 Windsor Gardens in London, Paddington brings with him stories of humor, compassion, and marmalade. The exhibition commemorates the 60th anniversary of the first book by Michael Bond, *A Bear Called Paddington*. Fifteen novels, numerous publishing formats, two television series, and two successful movies have ensured the loveable bear from Peru remains as popular as ever. Original art by Paddington’s various illustrators—Peggy Fortnum, Fred Banbery, Ivor Wood, David McKee, Barry Macey, and R.W. Alley—provides comparisons of the iconic bear over time. Guests can “travel” to Paddington’s favorite sites in London posted around the gallery, stamping special bus passes at each location.

This exhibition is generously supported by HarperCollins Children’s Books, global publisher of the Paddington Bear books since 1958 and YOTTOY Productions, a long-term toy partner of Paddington in the US since 2005.

A Beautiful Partnership

Born 11 days apart on opposite sides of the country, Leo Dillon and Diane Sorber met as students at the Parsons School of Design, where they became instant rivals and steadfast partners in life and art until Leo’s death in 2012. They worked in concert over 50 years, demonstrating remarkable versatility and a mastery of media, adopting different modes of expression to best illustrate each narrative. They dedicated themselves to portraying children of color so young readers would see themselves reflected in stories. *A Marriage of Artistry: Leo and Diane Dillon* (May 26 – November 25, 2018) includes art from the Dillons’ two Caldecott Medal books, *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People’s Ears* (1976) and *Ashanti to Zulu: African Traditions* (1977), as well as numerous other picture book titles. Diane’s recent solo venture, *I Can be Anything! Don’t Tell Me I Can’t* (2018), is also featured.
Introducing the 2018 Carle Honorees

We are thrilled to introduce this year’s recipients of the 2018 Carle Honors awards, celebrated for their creative vision, dedication, and inspiring contributions to children’s literature.

**Artist:** Paul O. Zelinsky’s work is highlighted by his exceptional artistry, mastery of many styles, and poignant storytelling. In 1998, he received the Caldecott Medal for his illustrated retelling of *Rapunzel.* Three more books received Caldecott Honors: *Hansel and Gretel* (1985), *Rumpelstiltskin* (1987), and *Swamp Angel* (1995).

**Angel:** The Sendak Fellowship, represented by Lynn Caponera and Dona Ann McAdams, fosters young illustrators and writers by providing them with creative residencies. Maurice Sendak started the annual fellowship program in 2010 to “create work...that excites and incites.” Previous fellows include Elisha Cooper, Yuyi Morales, Antoinette Portis, Sergio Ruzzier, and Stephen Savage.

**Bridge:** The Bologna Children’s Book Fair, represented by Elena Pasoli, has successfully brought together books and publishers from around the world for 54 years, creating a broad global audience for children’s literature. As both a cultural book show and international rights business forum, the fair creates a unique locus of discussion for children’s books.

**Mentor:** Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop has influenced generations of students in her work as a children’s literature scholar and as author of *Shadow and Substance: Afro-American Experience in Contemporary Children’s Fiction* (1982) and *Free Within Ourselves: The Development of African American Children’s Literature* (2007). She has been a champion for diversity in the field and is credited with the indispensable metaphor of books as both “mirrors and windows.”

The host for the 2018 awards is author Andrea Davis Pinkney, winner of multiple Coretta Scott King Book Awards, Jane Addams Children’s Literature Honor citations, the Boston Globe/Horn Book Honor medal, and many more. An author, she is also a children’s book publisher and editor working with Allen Say, Lois Lowry, Toni Morrison, and others.

Please save the date for Thursday, September 27 at Guastavino’s in New York City. In addition to the awards ceremony, the Carle Honors Art Auction will be held, featuring original work donated by some of the field’s most celebrated artists. The art will be available for online bidding on September 1 at [www.carlemuseum.org/carlehonors2018](http://www.carlemuseum.org/carlehonors2018).

For more information or to reserve tickets now, please contact Rebecca Miller Goggins at (413) 559-6308 or rebeccag@carlemuseum.org.
A Talk with Bob Forbes

In recent years, Robert L. Forbes and his wife, Lydia Forbes, have become major supporters of The Carle. They co-chaired The Carle Honors in 2015, and Bob joined the Board of Trustees in 2016. Rebecca Miller Goggins, director of development, recently talked with Bob about his interest in picture books and his involvement in the Museum.

RMG: How did you develop your love for picture books?

RLF: I grew up loving picture books as a kid and having Mom read Little Golden Books and Make Way for Ducklings for my brothers and me. My dad gave each of us a Bemelmans painting from Parsley, a lesser-known but quite wonderful book with terrific illustrations, so I grew up aware of art that went into a book. Fast forward to my work life, doing visuals for luxury magazines. I started writing poems and eventually thought it would be fun to get them illustrated. I was delighted when the late great Ronald Searle agreed to do it. One thing led to another, and we did three books together.

RMG: How has being on The Carle’s Board of Trustees changed your opinion of the Museum?

RLF: It has enhanced my impression of The Carle! The response to the Museum has really picked up—the partnerships with the other museums, the quality of the exhibitions, and the sharing of them around the world. It is an amazing resource, far beyond what even Eric and Bobbie must have dreamed.

RMG: You and Lydia have been so generous to the Museum—as Carle Honors sponsors, Chairman’s Circle Members, and donors to the Annual Fund and the permanent collection. Can you talk about what working with The Carle has meant to you?

RLF: The Carle Honors was a very special opportunity for me to bring Lydia more into the world of children’s books and be with people who I am so enthusiastic about. And it’s great to be able to bring guests to the gala who I want to introduce to The Carle. Donating to the collection is a special way to add to the Museum’s long-lasting legacy.

RMG: What is your dream for The Carle?

RLF: To get The Carle to the point where it has a healthy endowment, so we don’t have to worry about where funds are coming. I really think the Museum should keep doing what it is doing—because what it’s doing is extraordinary. So there are challenges aplenty ahead, but it’s a joyful place to help on its journey.
Caldecott Stories

Now in its eighth year, the Barbara Elleman Research Library (BERL) Lecture features the country’s preeminent scholars, book collectors, researchers, editors, authors, and illustrators in the field of children’s literature. On April 28, The Carle welcomes author, editor, and scholar Anita Silvey, whose 2018 BERL Lecture, “Celebrating the Caldecott,” takes a look “behind the curtain” as she reveals insights into the publishing and promotion of these Caldecott treasures. Silvey’s experiences include her work as publisher of Children’s Books at Houghton Mifflin and as editor of Horn Book Magazine. Guests will also have time to explore The Carle’s special exhibition, Eighty Years of Caldecott Books, co-curated by Elleman and Chief Curator Ellen Keiter.

Earlier that same day, educators will join Susan Schiller and Barbara Weber, volunteers from The Carle’s Reading Library, as well as Susan Wells, school librarian at Wildwood Elementary in Amherst, for an informal discussion about introducing Caldecott Medal books to children.

Around the World with Restless Books

On May 6, The Carle joins forces with Restless Books, an independent, nonprofit publisher, to celebrate its young adult imprint, Yonder. A full day of programs recognize international children’s literature: Indian classicist, scholar, and children’s book author Arshia Sattar will talk about her retelling of the Ramayana and Mexican cartoonist/artist Eko, illustrator of Juan Don Quixote of La Mancha: 400th Anniversary Edition, will present an art activity in both Spanish and English that was inspired by his illustrations for Juan Villoro’s The Wild Book.

The Wild Book, Yonder’s launch title and a contemporary middle-grade classic, is about a boy who discovers that his uncle’s library contains books with supernatural powers. Though it has sold over one million copies in the Spanish-speaking world, it is only now available in English through Yonder, with translations by Lawrence Schimel. Ilan Stavans, publisher of Restless Books and the Lewis-Sebring Professor of Humanities, Latin American, and Latino Culture at Amherst College, notes, “There is a rich tradition of children’s and young adult books that young English readers are entirely unfamiliar with. Yonder is eager to introduce them to these great authors.”

Advancing Our Collection

As the demand for traveling exhibitions and collections loans has increased at The Carle, the need for a major system upgrade has become critical. In fall 2017, The Carle received a prestigious federal grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (#MA-30-17-0231-17). The $173,414 award is for a three-year, $348,711 project to replace the Museum’s outdated collections database with a new collections management system and a digital asset management system.

These new platforms will allow Museum staff to more efficiently manage the 11,600 objects in their care and make detailed information about each piece of art more accessible. The project also includes a new, in-house digital photography lab and the digitization of the Museum’s permanent collection. Though the collection includes art by world-renowned picture book artists, only two percent of the 7,300 objects in its Permanent Collection have been digitized to date.
Friends by the Thousands!

On Saturday, February 10, The Carle proudly hosted Friendiversary, an annual celebration of reading and friendship featuring the beloved Mo Willems characters Elephant & Piggie. Now in its seventh year, Friendiversary is an initiative of First Book, a nonprofit organization that provides books and educational resources for children in need. At this year’s event—record-breaking with 1,758 visitors to The Carle—more than 800 children who attended received a free book from the popular Elephant & Piggie series, compliments of Disney Publishing Worldwide.

With thanks to Museum donors Michael and Rebecca Neidorf, The Carle was able to add new activities and expand our reach for the day, offering free round-trip bus transportation from the neighboring towns of Holyoke and Greenfield through King Ward Coach Lines, a new Community Supporter in The Carle’s Business Member Program. The fun day included friendship-themed storytimes and a special performance from The Center Dance Studio, which kicked off a dance party. Films, art activities, storytimes, and visits from the costume characters Elephant & Piggie rounded out the busy day.

New Books that Benefit The Carle

The Carle is fortunate to have an important role in several new books coming out this year.

What’s Your Favorite Bug? by Eric Carle and Friends is the third in a series of books featuring world renowned artists answering a child-friendly question through words and pictures. It will be released on July 31. When Bobbie’s Meadow opens in June, visitors will have a chance to see art from the book through a special “bug” hide-and-seek installation in the apple orchard. All sales from the “What’s Your Favorite” series, published by Macmillan Children’s Books, benefit the Museum.

Collage Workshop for Children by Shannon Merenstein, with tips and ideas by Meg Nicoll and Sara Ottomano, The Carle’s art educators, will come out in the fall (Quarto). The book is rich with ideas to encourage young people to embrace collage. Meg and Sara include many of the projects they’ve tested in the Museum’s Art Studio—as well as recommendations for picture books that help to inspire the imagination.

When Matilda Rubin, Haynes Turkle, and Jonathan Turkle donated more than 200 artworks by their father, Brinton Turkle, to The Carle, they also gave the Museum the copyright to several of his titles. This spring, Beautiful Feet Books of California, working with the Turkle family and with The Carle, will reissue three of Brinton Turkles most beloved titles: Thy Friend, Obadiah (winner of a 1970 Caldecott Honor), Rachel and Obadiah, and Obadiah the Bold—all from his series about a Quaker family on Nantucket in the early 1800s. Beautiful Feet made new files from the original art in the Museum’s collection to ensure that the books would be in their full glory.

All of these books will be available at The Carle Bookshop, or online at carlemuseum.org.
Bobbie’s Meadow Opening Soon!

Everyone at The Carle is hard at work outside too, getting ready for the opening of Bobbie’s Meadow on June 23. This beautiful new space, dedicated to the memory of our beloved co-founder Barbara “Bobbie” Carle, will create opportunities for all of our guests to enjoy the outdoors—walking, playing, reading, and drawing among the old apple trees in the Museum’s orchard. Bobbie’s Meadow features a walking path that is wheelchair-accessible, spaces for art installations, and seating for outdoor story times, all ringed by a wildflower meadow that will provide a new habitat for local wildlife.

“Bobbie’s Meadow: A Celebration and Dedication” will open to the public on June 23 at 10 a.m. with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and events and activities throughout the day. Special guests include Eric Carle, the landscape architect team from M + SLA of Berkeley, California, and Klopfer Martin Design Group of Boston, the construction team from Wright Builders of Northampton, and many of the 100-plus generous donors who made Bobbie’s Meadow possible. Donors to Bobbie’s Meadow will also enjoy a private reception and preview the night before.

For more information and a schedule, visit carlemuseum.org. Please join us!