Eric Carle’s tale of a caterpillar’s transformation into a butterfly is one of the most iconic children’s books of all time. The Carle is proud to celebrate the publication’s golden anniversary with the exhibition *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Turns 50*, on view through March 24, 2019.

With bold images and gentle humor, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* teaches lessons in counting, the days of the week, the process of metamorphosis, and the importance of choosing foods wisely. Carle turned the traditional picture book into an interactive object by integrating die-cut holes and shortened pages. “It’s a book you can play with, a toy you can read,” he explained. He designed it for toddlers and preschoolers, an audience under-recognized by publishers at the time.

The Caterpillar’s famous journey is now well-known across the globe. The book has been translated into 62 languages, most recently Yiddish and Mongolian, and a copy sells somewhere in the world every 30 seconds! Carle is often asked why this book, above all his others, has become such a beloved classic. He believes it’s because the story is one of hope. “Like the Caterpillar,” he says, “children will grow up and spread their wings.”

In September, Eric Carle celebrated the golden anniversary of his classic book by revisiting his past creations in *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Turns 50*. *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Turns 50* logo™ and © 2018 Eric Carle LLC. All rights reserved. Photo by Jim Gipe / Pivot Media © The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art.
Gifts Make a Difference Every Day

Thank you for helping us meet—and exceed—our spring matching gift grant of $100,000! Here are just a few of the wonderful ways in which friends supported The Carle this past year.

• For his birthday, Museum member George Bahlke asked his friends on Facebook to contribute to the Museum because his young family loves creativity and stories.

• When Stephanie Kielbasa passed away, sisters Mary Kielbasa, a longtime member, Debora Sullivan, Janice Hanny, and Anne Marie Kielbasa requested that gifts go to The Carle in their mother’s memory. Stephanie attended classes at The Carle with Mary and loved taking her granddaughters to the art studio.

• A retired educator, who is a charter member of the Museum, made her first-ever stock donation over the holidays to help support our young endowment.

We are honored every time you make a donation to support our mission. Please join our campaign this fall, or contact Rebecca Miller Goggins at rebeccag@carlemuseum.org to discuss the way you might like to make a gift this season.

Thank you!

Bobbie’s Meadow Opens

On a balmy evening in June, Eric Carle and more than 100 Museum donors came together to remember Barbara Carle and to celebrate the opening of Bobbie’s Meadow, a new “park within the orchard,” dedicated to her memory. One of the night’s speakers, landscape architect Ramsey Silberberg, eloquently explained the inspiration for the design this way:

“There are so many things we each loved about Bobbie—so many unique ways in which she touched the world around her—but in the early days of the design process we settled on a few qualities that became the foundation of our vision. We wanted the space to feel welcoming, accessible, and inclusive. We wanted to create a space that embraced its surroundings . . . that was humble and modest . . . but a space that was, at its core, elegant, because Bobbie was so irresistibly beautiful and graceful. We wanted to create a place that, like Bobbie, graciously brought people together with sincerity, warmth, and affection.”

As warm breezes blew in that night, guests fanned out around the sculpted path, sitting to chat on the concrete walls that serve as seats, or stopping staff to ask questions about the history of the 108-year-old orchard. The surrounding meadow, freshly seeded with more than 20 native wildflowers and grasses, was just getting started. The night was an emotional one, full of stories about Bobbie, and the many ways she touched—and still touches—all of us.

I think of Bobbie now every time I walk through the Great Hall and look out toward Bobbie’s Meadow. Sometimes there’s a lot happening—a baby yoga class or outdoor theater with children darting around the trees—and sometimes it’s quiet and peaceful. A staff member might be sitting on the wall to eat lunch and read, or a pair of neighbors from the Applewood Retirement Community next door might be walking the path for exercise. My favorite time is early in the morning, before the Museum has opened, when the bluebirds are out. Bobbie recognized simple and vital moments like these and how sustaining they can be. We have her and Eric to thank, yet again, for their inspiration and guidance.

Alix Kennedy
Executive Director
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Photo by Jim Gipe / Pivot Media © The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art.
The Power of Our Voice

The Coretta Scott King Book Awards, among the most prestigious citations in children’s literature, recognize outstanding African American artists of children’s books who demonstrate an appreciation of African American culture and universal human values. Our Voice: Celebrating the Coretta Scott King Illustrator Awards is the largest and most comprehensive presentation of illustrator winners and honorees assembled since the award was established in 1974. Among the 33 featured artists are Ashley Bryan, Bryan Collier, Floyd Cooper, Pat Cummings, Ekua Holmes, Kadir Nelson, Jerry Pinkney, Faith Ringgold, and Javaka Steptoe. The art is as varied as the stories themselves, created in collage, oil paint, watercolor, photography, quilting, and ceramics. The exhibition, on view from October 21 to January 27, 2019, was organized by the National Center for Children’s Illustrated Literature (NCCIL) of Abilene, Texas.

Wise Old Owls

Owls have figured prominently in world cultures—from Greek mythology to Harry Potter’s Hedwig—as symbols of wisdom, envoys to the spirit world, or even harbingers of misfortune. Illustrated Owls: A Who’s Hoo from the Museum’s Vault features, among others, Garth Williams’s Children’s Book Week poster from 1955, Ezra Jack Keats’s print from Zoo Where Are You? (1964), Maurice Sendak’s lithograph from A Kiss for Little Bear (1971), José Aruego and Ariane Dewey’s watercolor from Owlider (1974), Barry Moser’s resengrave print from The Pennyroyal Caxton Edition of the Holy Bible (1999), and numerous E. H. Shepard illustrations of Owl, Pooh, Tigger, and other friends in the Hundred Acre Wood. The exhibition will be on view from December 8 to April 21, 2019.

Exploring the Graphic Novel

The graphic novel is arguably the single-most exciting new development in illustrated literature for children and teens in a generation. As pioneers of a rapidly-evolving art form, graphic novelists explore the vast middle ground between the picture book and text-only narrative. Out of the Box: The Graphic Novel Comes of Age examines the graphic novel through a close look at ten poignant coming-of-age stories by Vera Brosgol, Catia Chien, Geoffrey Hayes, Gene Luen Yang, Jarrett Krosoczka, Hope Larson, Matt Phelan, David Small, Raina Telgemeier, and Sara Varon. An illustrated catalogue, with an essay by curator Leonard S. Marcus, will be published. This exhibition, on view from February 10 to May 26, 2019, was made possible with generous support from Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group and Scholastic, Inc.
The 13th annual Carle Honors was held on September 27 at Guastavino’s in New York City. It marked the Museum’s most successful gala yet, breaking records for the auction, which brought in $103,000, as well as for the total amount raised. All funds will benefit The Carle’s mission to inspire a love of art and reading.

More than 300 guests from throughout the children’s book world—artists, authors, publishers, agents, teachers, librarians, and friends who simply love art and books—came together to support the honorees and the positive impact they’ve had on children. Eric Carle, now 89, kicked off the presentation, saying “Bring on the funk!” The Funkrust Brass Band of Brooklyn, his personal favorite, energized the audience and feted each honoree and presenter with a jaunty tune. The evening’s host, Andrea Davis Pinkney, dazzled, offering bold, poetic introductions for each honoree.

Elena Pasoli of the Bologna Book Fair, which won the night’s Bridge Award, dedicated her award to the children of the world, hoping they will “know that there are many people of good will and of all creeds who are working hard to give them a better tomorrow.” Lynn Caponera and Dona Ann McAdams from the Sendak Fellowship & Workshop, the night’s Angel, talked about what a privilege it is to give artists the opportunity to study their own
craft and carry on the legacy of Maurice Sendak. Mentor Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop, called “Fairy God Scholar” by Pinkney, praised picture books for “bringing color into the formerly ‘all-white’ world of children’s books” and called out previously awarded Carle Honors Mentors, grateful to be among them. Artist Paul O. Zelinsky shared childhood images and reflected on both a wish to be in the center of things and also to observe, which he said was perfect preparation for becoming an illustrator. He then said, “The world of children’s books is the best world in the world. And here we are, at . . . the center of that world . . . I am thrilled and honored.”

The 18 members of Funkrust closed the presentation, leading guests to dinner. More than 40 guests signed up to become a member of The Carle and received as thanks a pre-release golden edition of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, autographed by Eric Carle. Enthused, inspired, and grateful to be at the center of the world of picture books, every guest took home the popular Carle Honors Gift Bag, loaded with the hottest new books and special gifts from our sponsors.

Please join us again next year—or for the first time ever—on Thursday, September 26, 2019.
The Carle’s Interpretive Plan

Three years ago, The Carle’s education staff started working on an Interpretive Plan, a series of statements that define our educational philosophy and clarifies how our collections, exhibitions, and programs work together to make the Museum a relevant and cohesive experience for our community.

By collecting visitor and staff feedback, we learned more about our audience and looked closely at the unique opportunities that The Carle offers. What, we asked ourselves, do we hope our guests will learn, feel, and take away from their visits? The process resulted in three overarching goals that we committed to this year:

- To expand and deepen an appreciation for picture books with all audiences
- To empower people to find meaning through words and pictures
- To connect people through picture books

We believe picture books help widen the lens through which we see the world, creating opportunities for shared experiences and cross-cultural understanding. We look forward to working with our partners throughout our local—and global—community to champion that vision, and we are excited to have this new tool to help us plan.

Hungry for Books

This fall, The Carle began a new family literacy project in Springfield, Massachusetts. In partnership with Home City Families and Springfield City Library, Hungry for Books is a series of interactive workshops for Springfield caregivers that provides tools to engage toddlers and Pre-K children in shared reading experiences that develop early literacy skills.

Located at easy-to-access sites that provide childcare and food, Hungry for Books offers eight, three-session workshops in both English and Spanish. Caregivers receive free picture books, supportive and responsive hands-on training, and tips on how to use books to read, talk, and play with their children at home. In addition to workshops for caregivers, Hungry for Books also provides professional development for Home City Families and Springfield City Library staff to enhance community literacy programming and strengthen the relationship between local libraries and Springfield families.

Hungry for Books is made possible by a grant from The Funder Collaborative for Reading Success (FCRS).
A Flurry of Authors and Artists

Here are just a few of the many authors and artists making appearances at The Carle this fall:

- **Eric Carle**, on September 15 to talk with Cathryn Mercier about writing and illustrating *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.
- **Dav Pilkey**, creator of the Dog Man and Captain Underpants series, on September 23 as part of his *Howl with Laughter Tour* across the United States and Canada.
- **Mo Willems** on October 13, celebrating the new book in his beginning-reader series, *Unlimited Squirrels: I Lost My Tooth!*
- **Jerry Pinkney** in conversation with Ekua Holmes and Gordon C. James for the October 20 opening of *Our Voice: Celebrating the Coretta Scott King Illustrator Awards*.
- **Bryan Collier**, six-time winner of the Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award, at The Carle’s annual Educators’ Night on November 13.
- Special storytime artists and writers throughout the season include Jon Agee, Grace Lin, Randall de Sève, Pamela Zagarenski, Jane Yolen, Heidi E.Y. Stemple, and Ryan T. Higgins.

Happy guests get books signed by favorite authors and artists on a recent day at the Museum.
Cut and Paste!

This year, The Carle’s education team paired up with Shannon Merenstein, a Reggio-inspired author and teacher from Pittsburgh, to create *Collage Workshop for Kids* (Quarry Books)—a colorful and inviting guide to creating collage with children. Chapters focus on everyday materials—such as colored tissue paper, newspaper, and fabric—as well as techniques and themes that spark the imagination. In each chapter, The Carle’s art educators Meg Nicoll and Sara Ottomano share their hard-won advice from working with thousands of Museum guests to encourage open-ended explorations and creativity. Also included are inspiring quotations from some of our favorite picture book artists working today. *Collage Workshop for Kids*, available October 30, is great for parents, teachers, or anyone who wants to introduce children to the joys of making collage. Happy cutting and pasting!

Pick up a copy of *Collage Workshop for Kids* at The Carle Bookshop!