I have been collections manager and registrar at The Carle since 2012. My team is responsible for the stewardship of the art—its storage and tracking, handling, conservation, and accuracy of each object’s database record. We also oversee the shipping of loans to other museums. I’ve had the opportunity to courier exhibitions internationally several times—a complicated venture I enjoy immensely.

A courier’s job is to keep the art safe. At museums borrowing our work, I oversee installation and de-installation. I ensure crates have acclimatized, assess the condition of each work (reviewing previous notes) as it is unpacked or repacked, and check light levels once installed. Throughout this process, I work closely with the borrowing registrar, so we’re both aware of any issues as the exhibition changes custody.

Once crates are packed, I stay with them for each leg of the trip, from loading into the art shipper’s trucks (and riding with them) to unloading at the airport cargo terminal. In the hangar, I watch the forklift drivers carry each crate to a conveyor belt for X-rays and security clearance. Then I observe how the crates are stacked and strapped for the flight, making sure no hazardous materials (or live animals!) are bundled with them.

After crates are prepped, I leave for the passenger terminal to board while a customs agent ensures the crates are loaded. At arrival, the process happens in reverse: crates unwrapped, removed from palettes, and forklifted onto climate-controlled trucks. I climb into the cab, and we drive to the next destination.

My most recent courier trip involved packing an Eric Carle exhibition at the Wilhelm Busch Museum in Hannover, Germany, and escorting it to its next venue, the Frist Art Museum in Nashville, Tennessee. We started condition reports and packing in Hannover on a Sunday evening in September. By Thursday morning we began the long journey, flying from Frankfurt to Atlanta, then driving to Nashville.

The truck pulled into the Frist’s loading dock around 10 p.m. on Friday. Once the crates were unloaded, stored, and signed for, my work was complete. I gladly accepted an escort to a nearby hotel, where I enjoyed a solid night’s rest after 42 hours on the road. I was exhausted but proud once more to share one of our exhibitions with a new audience.
MAKE A DIFFERENCE

You Make The Carle Possible!

Whether you visit The Carle in person or cheer us on from afar, your donations and membership make it possible for us to present exhibitions in Amherst and travel them around the world, champion today’s finest artists and authors, and provide outreach and access for teachers, caregivers, and children.

Our annual appeal is mailing soon—so please get behind picture books with a gift to show what The Carle means to you. You can give online at www.carlemuseum.org/give, call us at 413-559-6310, or mail the gift envelope in your appeal. As a way of saying thank you, we will send you a free family pass and list your name on our donor wall. And remember, when you give, you help us pass on the legacy of picture books to another generation!

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Giving Thanks

As the holidays approach, each of us on staff start reflecting on the year behind us and the things we’re grateful for. Here are a few items from the top of my own (long) list:

- Eric Carle turned 90 in June (and *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* turned 50). Eric was in Western Massachusetts for a long stay, so we were able to welcome him as a regular guest at the Museum throughout the summer and fall—casual visits that delighted the staff and happily surprised our visitors.
- More than 350 supporters gathered in New York for our annual Carle Honors in September, breaking all of our previous fundraising records. (Thank you, sponsors and auction artists!)
- This summer, The Massachusetts Cultural Council Cultural Facilities Fund (CFF) awarded the Museum $85,000 toward $170,000 worth of much-needed lighting and audio-visual upgrades. This kind of infrastructure support is the hardest money for nonprofits to raise, so these state funds are critical for us. (Thank you, Commonwealth!)
- We continue to loan our exhibitions in record numbers. We had nine traveling in the last year alone—as museums recognize picture-book illustrations’ rich history and ability to draw record numbers of visitors. We’re now able to spread our mission to hundreds of thousands of additional museum-goers every year. (Make sure you read our cover story, which offers a look at the painstaking process behind moving our exhibitions.)
- Last spring at Amherst College, the Jones Library—Amherst’s 100-year-old public library—presented one of the Sixth Annual Samuel Minot Jones Awards for Literary Achievement to The Carle; other award recipients were poet and Museum supporter Richard Michelson and author Bruce Watson. The “Sammys” is Amherst’s signature event, honoring the area’s rich literary heritage. Our community is home to more than 30 children’s book authors and artists alone!

I can’t close without a special thank you to our endlessly talented and hard-working board of trustees. We welcomed five new members in the last year—publishers Suzanne Murphy, Andrea Davis Pinkney, and Lynn Waggoner, and artists and authors Bryan Collier and Grace Lin. It’s a privilege for all of us on staff to do this work guided by such thoughtful and supportive leadership.

Finally, to you—our members and donors—thank you for believing in The Carle and in the enduring power of picture books.

Alix Kennedy
Executive Director
alixk@carlemuseum.org

Photo by Oliver Scott.
The Pursuit of Everything

The Pursuit of Everything: Maira Kalman’s Books for Children, on view through April 5, 2020, presents a colorful panorama of Maira Kalman’s picture book career. Perhaps best known for her quirky *New Yorker* covers and as a pioneering visual journalist for *The New York Times*, Kalman has also published 18 acclaimed children’s books. She illustrates the comic adventures of Max Stravinsky, the dog-poet in *Max Makes a Million* (1990), and the escapades of a gluttonous canine named Pete in *What Pete Ate from A-Z (Really!)* (2001). The exhibition features Kalman’s kaleidoscopic paintings from *Next Stop Grand Central* (1999) alongside illustrations from her recent publications *Beloved Dog* (2015), and *Cake* (2018). Kalman addresses important historical figures and events in *Looking at Lincoln* (2012), *Bold & Brave: Ten Heroes Who Won Women the Right to Vote* (2018), and the 9/11-inspired *Fireboat: The Heroic Adventures of the John J. Harvey* (2002). Balancing the ridiculous and the profound, Kalman’s beautifully crafted paintings and witty wordplay delight audiences of all ages. This exhibition is made possible with generous support from Penguin Young Readers and Random House Children’s Books.

Under the Sea with Eric Carle

Dive in for an underwater adventure! This exhibition, up through May 31, 2020, showcases original art from 11 Eric Carle picture books, including his popular titles *A House for Hermit Crab* (1987) and *Mister Seahorse* (2004). View penguins in arctic waters and jellyfish in tropical seas, along with playful dolphins, seals, turtles, and whales. Also on view are Carle’s illustrations of mythological sea creatures—mermaids, leviathans, and the legendary kraken. A reading boat and an immersive puppet stage provide inspiration for creative play. *Under the Sea with Eric Carle* is made possible through the generous support of the Hsin-Yi Foundation.

Now & Then: Contemporary Illustrators and Their Childhood Art

Co-curators Grace Lin and Jarrett J. Krosoczka honor childhood creativity in the exhibition *Now & Then: Contemporary Illustrators and Their Childhood Art*, in which they display artists’ childhood drawings next to their published illustrations. The pairings inspire young visitors to make connections to their current creations—and their future potential. In addition to Lin and Krosoczka, the featured artists are Cece Bell, Nidhi Chanani, Jason Chin, Eric Fan and Terry Fan, Julie Flett, Jeff Kinney, Elisa Kleven, Barbara Lehman, Rafael López, Oge Mora, Juana Martinez-Neal, Raúl the Third, Evan Turk, Shadra Strickland, Don Tate, and Tillie Walden. The exhibition is on view from December 14 through May 10, 2020.

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Breaking Records at the 14th Annual Carle Honors

The excitement was palpable at The Carle Honors, our New York City fundraiser, on September 26 as we awarded honorees in front of more than 350 guests. Highlights included Eric Carle taking the stage to pay tribute to his mentor Leo Lionni and a video message from co-chair Jane Goodall filmed at her institute in Africa.

Artist and author Grace Lin and editor Alvina Ling hosted, throwing out surprises like a read-aloud story time of Kwame Alexander’s *How to Read a Book*, illustrated by Melissa Sweet, and a visit from the costumed Very Hungry Caterpillar. A few special moments:

- Takeshi Matsumoto, representing Bridge honoree Chihiro Art Museum, which he built to honor his mother, Chihiro Iwasaki, explained that he first told Eric Carle in Japan in 1985 about his dream to build a collection of picture book illustrations. “Mr. Carle said he’d donate art. I thought he was joking, but it arrived the very next day.”
- David Saylor was the first creative director to receive the Mentor honor. His groundbreaking graphic novel imprint, Graphix, changed the landscape.
of children’s literature. “Comics are for everyone,” said Saylor. “Comics are books. Comics are literature. Comics are powerful and vibrant.”

**Kenny Garcia accepted** the Angel award for REFORMA, the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking, which offers wide-ranging programs like books for refugee children.

Garcia said, “I hope folks will continue to support these initiatives to reflect the brilliant talent in our communities.”

In accepting the Artist award, Melissa Sweet said: “The ultimate privilege is going to the studio each day.” In closing, she paraphrased a line from Charlotte’s Web, telling the audience, “You have been my friends. That in itself is a tremendous thing.”

Guests cheered as The Carle Honors Art Auction closed with an unprecedented $127,000 raised—and the overall event raised a record-breaking $350,000. Save the date and join us next year for the 15th Annual Carle Honors on Thursday, September 24, 2020. Thank you!
Hungry for Books

“This program has inspired me to be more playful, attentive, and patient when I read with my child!” This is one of the many comments we’ve received from participants in Hungry for Books, The Carle’s early literacy workshop series for Springfield caregivers and childcare providers. Meeting seasonally at Sixteen Acres Library, Mason Square Library, and Zanetti Montessori School, Carle educators facilitate interactive workshops for caregivers of children up to age 5. Workshops are also offered in Spanish for Migrant Head Start families, led by Spanish-speaking educators trained by Carle staff.

Recognizing the role of parents as their child’s first teacher, Hungry for Books helps caregivers gain the confidence and skills to support emergent literacy skills at home. At each session, caregivers observe storytime, receive free books and play materials, and discuss strategies for using picture books to meaningfully talk, play, and create with their children.

We are grateful to the Funder Collaborative for Reading Success for its generous support of Hungry for Books, and to our partners at Home City Families and Springfield City Library for their time and dedication.

Bobbie’s Meadow

Over the summer, the Art Studio team undertook a project to connect the team and guests with Bobbie’s Meadow. With the help of Art Studio Intern Morgan Tabb, the team took photos of plants and wildlife spotted in the meadow, identified the species, and added them to an informational display wall in the Art Studio.

To further document the maturing meadow, the team developed a nature observation kit for guests to borrow. Using these kits, which contained pencils, observation sheets, a magnifier, and a viewfinder, guests spent time in the meadow observing and recording what they found, often contributing their drawings to the display wall.

As a result of this project, we learned which native plant species were thriving this summer. Meadow consultant Owen Wormser, co-founder of Local Harmony, spoke to staff and volunteers about what has come up so far, like Swamp Milkweed, which is critical for monarch butterflies.

By carefully observing Bobbie’s Meadow and its changes day to day, and sharing what we’re learning with others, we have a deeper understanding of the landscape outside the Art Studio windows. Learn more about this project and the plants and animals we saw this summer on the Art Studio’s blog Making Art Together.
The Pigeon Comes to *Your City Here*

debuted February 2018 in Pittsburgh, equipped with a dress-up area for the Naked Mole Rat and a laundromat with clothes dryers, in which children could try to find Knuffle Bunny.

The Pigeon and Pals! A Mo Willems
Art and Play Exhibit

This spring, two of our touring exhibitions will come together under one roof at the biggest children’s museum in the world, The Children’s Museum of Indianapolis. Its 489,000-square-foot facility welcomes 1.2 million visitors annually!

*The Pigeon and Pals! A Mo Willems Art and Play Exhibit* opens on February 8, 2020, and will run through May 10, 2020. It brings together work from two exhibits: *The Pigeon Comes to *Your City Here*: A Mo Willems Exhibit* co-organized with the Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh and *Elephant & Piggie in WE ARE ART! (A Mo Willems Exhibition)*, organized by The Carle.

*The Pigeon Comes to *Your City Here*: A Mo Willems Exhibit* debuted in February 2018 in Pittsburgh and has visited Topeka, Tampa, St. Louis, and Chicago, breaking attendance records as it tours North America. Young visitors play, make art inspired by Mo Willems, and learn about the rich social and emotional lives of the author’s characters. In Indianapolis, that exhibit will be combined with *Elephant & Piggie in WE ARE ART!* which features original illustrations from all 25 Elephant & Piggie books.

**A Season of Authors and Illustrators**

Here are some of the authors and illustrators visiting The Carle this fall:

- Local musician and author MISTER G (Ben Gundersheimer), on September 7, singing songs and debuting his first picture book, *Señorita Mariposa* — a look at the annual migration of monarch butterflies from Canada to Mexico.
- Peter Sís, on September 21, sharing stories of his immigration experience.
- Caldecott Honoree Carson Ellis, at The Carle’s annual Educators’ Night on October 22, joined by Sesame Street illustrator Joe Mathieu.
- Two-time Newbery Medalist Kate DiCamillo on November 2, talking about her new book, *Beverly, Right Here*, a conclusion to her novels *Raymie Nightingale* and *Louisiana’s Way Home*.
- Artists highlighted in the special exhibition, *Now & Then: Contemporary Illustrators and their Childhood Art*, on December 14, including Elisa Kleven, Jarrett J. Krosoczka, Barbara Lehman, Grace Lin, Raúl the Third, Shadra Strickland, Don Tate, and Evan Turk.
- Special storytime authors and illustrators throughout the season, including Breanna J. McDaniel, Brian Lies, Rowboat Watkins, Doug Salati, Thyra Heder, Cynthia Alonso, Julia Denos, and E.B. Goodale.

*Photo of Kate DiCamillo by Catherine Smith; Carson Ellis, by Autumn de Wilde.*

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Holiday Gift Ideas

Ready to shop for the holidays? This fall marks the release of What’s Your Favorite Food?, the newest in the successful What’s Your Favorite series, featuring Eric Carle and a host of leading children’s book artists, answering the pressing questions of the day for young readers. Their whimsical responses include everything from matzo ball soup to french fries to chicken Alfredo.

In addition to Eric Carle, contributors include Aki, Isabelle Arsenault, Brigette Barrager, Matthew Cordell, Benji Davies, Karen Katz, Laurie Keller, Juliet Menéndez, Greg Pizzoli, Misa Saburi, Felicita Sala, Dan Santat, and Shannon Wright. Thanks to the generosity of Macmillan, royalties from this book benefit The Carle.

Did you know that The Carle Bookshop has a huge selection of signed picture books? Our shop offers personalized customer service from experienced and knowledgeable booksellers so you can find the perfect gift for book and art lovers of all ages. Shop our large selection of carefully curated books and gifts, or purchase a signed art print by Eric Carle, Aaron Becker, Peter Sís, Bryan Collier, Jerry Pinkney, or Pamela Zagarenski—among many others. You can order online or over the phone and get your gifts delivered right to the recipient’s doorstep.

In appreciation of their continued support of the Museum, members will receive complimentary gift wrapping in addition to our annual free shipping promotion the entire month of December. And remember: All membership and purchases from The Carle Bookshop directly support The Carle and its mission! Visit shop.carlemuseum.org or call (413) 559-6333.