

**THE  
ERIC  
CARLE  
MUSEUM OF  
PICTURE  
BOOK  
ART**

ANNUAL REPORT

**Fiscal Year 2023**

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023



## Letter from the Board Chair and Executive Director

**The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art**, which houses a rich and deep collection of picture book art, is the premiere museum in the United States dedicated solely to picture book art. We illuminate our collection through exhibitions, education, programming, and art-making. Our mission is to elevate picture book art and inspire a love of art, art creation, and reading. In our 20 years of existence, we have become a critical resource for picture book artists and authors, and art-loving communities locally, nationally, and abroad.

We are new to our leadership roles and are greatly indebted to our predecessors, Founding Executive Director and Chief Curator Emeriti H. Nichols B. Clark, former Executive Director Alexandra Kennedy, and former Board Chairs Barbara Carle and Christopher B. Milne. We also are incredibly thankful for our dedicated staff and Board of Trustees for their supportive and inspiring creativity. To Eric and Bobbie Carle, our visionary founders, and the Carle family, we are eternally grateful.

As the world began to return to normal after the perils of the pandemic, and as we continued to navigate 2022 and 2023, we never abandoned our core belief that art promotes tolerance and understanding, and that picture book art inspires a love of art in people of all ages. As you will read in our Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report, our staff never wavered. They continued to create innovative exhibitions (on-site together with traveling) and online and onsite programs and initiatives, enhancing access, diversifying audiences and collections, and encouraging the love of art. We truly believe that picture book art makes the world a much better place, and we know that you agree!



**William Gorth**  
**Museum Board Leadership**  
William Gorth, Chair  
Jennifer Loja, Vice Chair  
Lynn Waggoner, Treasurer  
Andrea Davis Pinkney, Secretary



**Jennifer Schantz**  
**Executive Leadership**  
Jennifer Schantz, Executive Director  
Rachel Hass, Special Assistant to the Executive Director  
Ellen Keiter, Chief Curator  
Rebecca Miller Goggins, Director of Development  
Alexandra de Montrichard, Director of Operations  
Andrea Powers, Director of Finance & Administration  
Courtney Waring, Director of Education

*William Gorth*  
William Gorth

*Jennifer Schantz*  
Jennifer Schantz





## About the Museum

The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art is the international champion for picture book art. We collect, preserve, and exhibit original art; encourage guests of all ages to read and create art; and foster an ever-growing audience passionate about picture book art.

Eric and Barbara Carle co-founded the Museum in November 2002. Eric Carle was the renowned author and artist of more than 70 books, including the 1969 classic *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. Since opening, the facility has served over one million visitors. The Carle houses more than 9,000 works of art in our permanent collection. We have three art galleries, an art studio, an auditorium, picture book and scholarly libraries, and educational programs for families, scholars, educators, and schoolchildren. Bobbie's Meadow is an outdoor space that combines art and nature. Educational offerings include professional training for educators around the country and master's degree programs in children's literature in partnership with Simmons University. For online visitors, the Museum offers a wealth of digital resources, including art activities, book recommendations, collections, exhibition videos, and workshops.

Learn more at [www.carlemuseum.org](http://www.carlemuseum.org) and on Facebook, YouTube, X, and Instagram @CarleMuseum.



Aerial view of The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art

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## The Carle at a Glance

Fiscal Year 2023  
All numbers have been rounded

**50,000**  
The average number of visitors per year

**+**  
The number of museum-goers who have seen our touring exhibitions around the world



**4,000,000+**  
**44,000**  
Museum building square footage

**7.5**  
Acres



**1,000,000+**  
**+**

Website page views

**13,000**  
Collection objects in our care



**250+**  
Artists represented in the permanent collection



**145 thousand plus**  
Social media followers





## A Museum for Everyone

**The Museum typically welcomes 50,000 visitors annually—half from our region and the rest from the greater US and abroad.**

Our art museum is for all age levels. In fact, we often see three generations of one family coming together at The Carle, united in their passion for picture book art. Over Fiscal Year 2023, we saw our admissions numbers begin to climb back as people emerged from the pandemic, a positive trend that continued into the second half of calendar year 2023.

The Carle is committed to creating a welcoming and accessible environment for all. As an educational institution, we offer programs, partners, and resources that represent diverse people, diverse modes of learning, and accessible spaces. As an art museum, The Carle collects, exhibits, and preserves the work of artists and authors who historically have been excluded by publishers and museums, including women and people of color. The Carle continues to listen, learn, and grow to improve as an institution, recognizing that this work is never finished but is part of an ever-evolving process that The Carle must continue to prioritize.

In addition to families and school groups, our visitors are typically teachers, librarians, scholars, artists, writers, and art and book enthusiasts. Each year, more than 2,500 students, educators, and librarians participate in youth outreach and professional development programs with our education team.

The Carle works hard to address systemic barriers to art and early literacy by focusing access efforts on families and children from low-income communities. Of note are the strategic partnerships that our education team has formed with schools and social service agencies in neighboring Hampden County, where 17% of households live in poverty and 27% of third-graders do not meet grade level expectations for reading and writing (2022 District Report Card).

Additionally, The Carle Community Fund, which launched in 2019, covers Museum admission for low-income families, field trip fees for schoolchildren at Title One Schools, and professional development fees for early childhood educators and Title One schoolteachers and librarians. This year, more than 1,500 individuals benefited from the program, a number we are eager to grow.

Across all our communities, we recognize an ongoing need to help people connect through art and shared experiences. According to the U.S. Surgeon General's 2023 advisory, *Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation*, "Humans are wired for social connection, but we've become more isolated over time" (see HHS.gov). At The Carle, we believe sharing picture book art—whether a child is in the lap of a parent, a teacher is reading aloud to a class, or an adult is rediscovering art and stories—provides unique opportunities for building cross-cultural understanding and a more compassionate society.



A family reads together in the Reading Library

It's exciting to get a closer look at Eric Carle's book dummies



Visitors observing art in the galleries



A family making art together in the Art Studio



A guest enjoys art from Recent Acquisitions

“Picture books, when read and shared, are like glasses; they can give kids a clear, true view of the world all around them.”

— Grace Lin,  
Trustee, artist, and author





# 20

## The Carle Turns

In Fiscal Year 2023, **The Carle celebrated its 20th anniversary**—and close to a million art-loving visitors—with special exhibitions and activities. Festivities kicked off June 25, 2022, with the opening of the exhibition *Celebrating Collage: A 20th Anniversary Celebration*. Five of the featured artists—Bryan Collier, Nina Crews, Thao Lam, Susan L. Roth, and Elizabeth Zunon—joined for storytimes, gallery talks, book signings, family activities in Bobbie’s Meadow, and collage-making in the Art Studio.



The audience was captivated as artist Thao Lam described the collage process



Artist Bryan Collier leads a gallery tour of *Celebrating Collage: A 20th Anniversary Celebration*



Inspired by seeing original art in the exhibitions, visitors often settle in together to read the related books



During The Carle's 20th anniversary year, the Museum celebrated Alix Kennedy's 15-year tenure as Executive Director. Here, she chuckles as Mo Willems entertains the audience during the To New Heights fundraiser





Exhibitions: Elevating Picture Book Art

The WEST GALLERY



Eric Carle made five trips to Japan during his lifetime. There, he and his wife Babbie visited several picture book museums, which became inspiration for the establishment of The Carle. The six Japanese single trees outside our Great Hall are a reminder of this important connection.

This exhibition explores Carle's long association with—and deep admiration for—Japan. It includes never-before-seen photographs of Carle's visits over three decades. Of special interest are original illustrations by Carle and Kazuo Inoue for their 2003 collaboration, *Where Are You Going? To See My Friend!* Also on view are Carle's illustrated haikus and Japanese word collages. There are several unique objects, like a Japanese quilted version of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and pins donated by picture book illustrator Chihito Iwasaki when *The Carle* opened in 2022.

Eric Carle Loves Japan is made possible through a generous gift from Kaisei-sha Publishing Company.

All Eric Carle exhibitions at the Museum are made possible through the generous support of the Hsin-Yi Foundation.

Japanese language translations provided by the Translation Center at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

View of Eric Carle Loves Japan exhibition

The Museum presents six original art exhibitions a year in its three galleries. Each exhibition underscores the cultural, historical, and artistic significance of picture book art. Exhibitions typically focus on artists' creative processes, from their early influences to sketches to published artwork. Retrospectives feature works by historically important figures as well as contemporary artists working today. Thematically organized exhibitions have covered topics such as the civil rights movement, Jewish picture books, graphic novels, and wordless picture books. Additionally, The Carle offers online exhibitions and thematic book displays in the Reading Library.

The West Gallery is permanently dedicated to Eric Carle's art.



All West Gallery exhibitions are made possible through the generous support of the Hsin-Yi Foundation.

Trustee Teresa Toro wearing Eric Carle's Japanese firefighter coat in honor of the exhibition



Eric Carle Loves Japan  
March 18 - August 20, 2023

This exhibition was made possible through a generous gift from Kaisei-sha Publishing Company.



Eric Carle's Book Birthdays  
September 3, 2022 - March 5, 2023

Eric Carle, Illustration for "Slowly, Slowly, Slowly," said the Sloth. Collection of Eric and Barbara Carle. © 2002 Penguin Random House LLC.



Eric Carle: Raining Cats & Dogs  
March 19 - August 21, 2022

Eric Carle, Illustration for *Draw Me a Star*. Collection of Eric and Barbara Carle. © 1992 Penguin Random House LLC.



# The EAST GALLERY



**Horse Tales: Galloping into Children's Books**  
June 17 - December 31, 2023



**What Might You Do? Christian Robinson**  
January 14 - June 4, 2023



**Celebrating Collage: A 20th Anniversary Exhibition**  
June 25 - December 31, 2022



“ Like many illustrators, I would argue that illustration **IS** fine art, and some of the finest fine art of all has been created for children’s books in particular. How fortunate we are to have an institution like **The Carle**, which celebrates and elevates this vital art form, while generously supporting those who make it.”

— Cece Bell, Artist & Author

View of Celebrating Collage: A 20th Anniversary Exhibition

Gianna Marino, Illustration for *If I Had a Horse* (Roaring Brook Press). Collection of the artist. © 2018 Gianna Marino.

Christian Robinson, Illustration for *You Matter* (Atheneum Books for Young Readers). Collection of the artist. © 2020 Christian Robinson.

Vanessa Brantley-Newton, Illustration for *Just Like Me* (Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers). Collection of the artist. © 2020 Vanessa Brantley-Newton.





# The CENTRAL GALLERY



The figures in my works are offered  
merely as symbols of the universally beloved  
state of being called childhood. —NURA

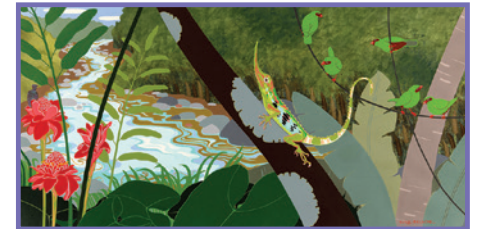
View of Finding Nura:  
Rediscovering an  
American Modernist  
from the Kendra  
and Allan Daniel  
Collection



### The Art & Storytelling of Claire A. Nivola

April 22 - November 5, 2023

Claire A. Nivola, Illustration for *Life in the Ocean: The Story of Oceanographer Sylvia Earle* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux). Collection of the artist. © 2012 Claire A. Nivola.



### The Carle Collection: Recent Acquisitions

November 19, 2022 - April 9, 2023

Lulu Delacre, Illustration for *¡Olinguito, de la A a la Z! Olinguito, from A to Z!* (Children's Book Press). Gift of the artist. © 2016 Lulu Delacre.



### Finding Nura: Rediscovering an American Modernist from the Kendra and Allan Daniel Collection

April 16 - November 6, 2022

Nura Woodson Ulreich, *Windy Walk*, 1931.  
Kendra and Allan Daniel Collection.





## Exhibitions: Elevating Picture Book Art

### Traveling Exhibitions

Every year at least six of The Carle’s exhibitions—past or present—travel to museums in the US and abroad, ensuring museums everywhere can introduce new audiences to the joy of picture book art. In recent years, partnerships with major institutions like the New-York Historical Society in Manhattan, the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, the Frist Art Museum in Nashville, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and the Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh have enabled us to bring picture book art exhibitions to a much wider audience than we serve in Amherst, shining a spotlight on The Carle and its expertise.

#### *Exploring Our Waters with Eric Carle*

South Street Seaport Museum,  
New York, NY  
April 15, 2022 – April 2024

#### *Peter Sis: Labyrinths and Dreams*

Itami City Museum of Art,  
History and Culture, Itami, Japan  
April 14 – June 11, 2023

Hachioji Yume Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan  
June 30 – August 31, 2023

#### *Elephant and Piggie in WE ARE ART*

*(A Mo Willems Exhibition)*

Muscatine Art Center, Muscatine, IA  
November 3, 2022 – February 5, 2023

Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts,  
Spring, TX  
June 3 – September 2, 2023

#### *Arnold Lobel: Alone Together*

Itami City Museum of Art,  
History and Culture, Itami, Japan  
September 3 – December 23, 2022

#### *E. H. Shepard The Winnie-the-Pooh Exhibition: Songs from the Forest*

Play! Museum, Tokyo, Japan  
July 16 – October 2, 2022

Nagoya City Museum, Nagoya, Japan  
October 8 – November 27, 2022

#### *Very Eric Carle: A Very Hungry, Quiet, Lonely, Clumsy, Busy Exhibit\**

Port Discovery Children’s Museum,  
Baltimore, MD  
May 21 – September 5, 2022

Museum of Discovery and Science,  
Fort Lauderdale, FL  
September 17, 2022 –  
January 8, 2023

The DoSeum, San Antonio, TX  
February 1 – April 16, 2023

Upcountry History Museum,  
Greenville, SC  
May 20 – September 10, 2023

\*Co-organized with the Children’s  
Museum of Pittsburgh

°In partnership with Paintopia



#### *Very Eric Carle: A Very Hungry, Quiet, Lonely, Clumsy, Busy Exhibit\*°*

Sogo, Hsinchu, Taiwan  
September 29 – October 24, 2022

Sogo, Taipei, Taiwan  
April 12 – May 14, 2023

#### *The Playful World of Eric Carle\*°*

UCCA Lab, Beijing, China  
July 21 – October 16, 2022

Powering Art Center, Hangzhou, China  
December 15, 2022 – April 2, 2023

Xiamen Powerlong Art Center,  
Xiamen, China  
May 29 – September 5, 2023

#### *The Pigeon Comes to \*Your City Here\*: A Mo Willems Exhibit\**

Liberty Science Center, Jersey City, NJ  
May 21 – September 5, 2022

Grand Rapids Children’s Museum,  
Grand Rapids, MI  
September 17, 2022– January 8, 2023

Long Island Children’s Museum,  
Garden City, NY  
January 21 – May 14, 2023

Golisano Children’s Museum of Naples  
(CMON), Naples, FL  
May 27 – September 3, 2023

#### *Picture the Dream: The Story of the Civil Rights Movement Through Children’s Books*

The New-York Historical Society,  
New York, NY  
April 1- July 24, 2022





## New Acquisitions



**In Fiscal Year 2023, The Carle added 686 original works to its permanent collection.**

The Carle has become a home to some of the most recognizable and beloved picture book art in the world. The Museum cares for more than 13,000 objects, including over 9,000 works of art in its permanent collection, representing every decade of the last century and more than 250 artists. Significant holdings include work by Ashley Bryan, Remy Charlip, Antonio Frasconi, Leo Lionni, Arnold Lobel, Petra Mathers, J.P. Miller, Alice Bolam Preston, William Steig, Susanne Suba, Brinton Turkle, Simms Taback, and Leonard Weisgard. In Fiscal Year 2023, we continued to increase diversity in the collection by adding works by women artists and artists of color.

The Museum also cares for Eric Carle's picture book art collection, comprising over 4,000 original artworks and various ephemera.

With a state-of-the-art database funded through a federal grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, The Carle's collection team continues to update records and digitize collections. Hundreds of images are now highlighted on the Museum's website. The team's long-term goal is to make the complete collection accessible and searchable for the public.



E. B. Lewis, Illustration for *The New King* by Doreen Rappaport (Dial Books). Gift of Harriet and Michael A. Seidman. © 1994 E. B. Lewis.

Sophie Blackall, Sketch for *If You Come to Earth* (Chronicle Books). Gift of Jane Bayard Curley. © 2020 Sophie Blackall.



Harry McNaught, Illustration for *Baby Animals* (Random House). Gift of the McNaught Family. © 1976 Harry McNaught.



William Papas, Illustration for *The Most Beautiful Child* (Pikku Publishing). Gift of Theresa Papas. © 1973, 2022 William Papas.



Corinna Luyken, Illustration for *Adrian Simcox Does NOT Have a Horse* by Marcy Campbell (Dial Books). Gift of the artist. © 2018 Corinna Luyken.



Thomas Locker, Illustration for *Sailing with the Wind*. Gift of Michael Wright and Robert Morin. © 1986 Thomas Locker.

## ARTISTS

added to the permanent collection in Fiscal Year 2023:

Mary Azarian	E.B. Lewis	Katharine Pyle*
Cece Bell*	Arnold Lobel	Daniel San Souci
Eric Carle	Thomas Locker*	Richard Scarry
Bonnie Christensen	Corinna Luyken*	Brian Selznick*
Sophie Blackall*	David Macaulay	Astrid Sheckels
Tomie dePaola	Harry McNaught	Jeanne Steig*
John Anster Fitzgerald*	Innosanto Nagara*	Gabi Swiatkowska*
Roy Gerrard	William Papas*	Leonard Weisgard
Oskar Hauenstein*	Jerry Pinkney	Rosemary Wells
Lois Lenski	Ace Powell*	Garth Williams

\*Artists new to the permanent collection





## Artists, Authors and Scholars



Artist Jane Dyer discusses her creative process in The Carle Auditorium



Micha Archer signing books for guests



Guest speaker Dr. Jonda C. McNair (center) with Barbara Elleman and Alix Kennedy



Teachers select free materials donated by various publishers



Kwame Alexander presents to educators during The Carle's 2022 Educators' Night

### Artist and Author Events

In Fiscal Year 2023, we welcomed more than 50 artists and authors for onsite or virtual programs, where they shared their inspirations and creative process. Some highlights of the year include Special Storytimes with Kyle Lukoff, Danielle Greendeer, and Hannah Moushabeck; a virtual program with collage artists Micha Archer, Ekua Holmes, Oge Mora, Melissa Sweet, and Ed Young; and a virtual classroom visit with Grace Lin and Kate Messner.

### The Barbara Elleman Research Library Lecture

April 22, 2023

The Carle welcomed Dr. Jonda C. McNair as guest speaker for the Barbara Elleman Research Library (BERL) Lecture. In her lecture, *The End Is Just the Beginning: Examining Endpapers in Picture Books*, Dr. McNair discussed the significance of why endpapers matter in picture book design.

### Educators' Night

October 12, 2022

Award-winning author Kwame Alexander read from his new book, *The Door of No Return* and talked about how he was called to write the story. He then shared his vision for building community and bringing more empathy through literature. The event was free and open to all educators.





## Gallery Tours

Throughout the year The Carle offers hundreds of special events, talks and lectures, workshops, art projects, and storytimes.

Gallery tours with artists, curators, and educators provide special opportunities for museum visitors to learn about The Carle's collections and exhibitions. They are encouraged to look carefully, ask questions, and share their own stories and memories related to the art on view.

All educational programming at The Carle is made possible by the Patricia Morrison McDonald Arts Endowment.



Vanessa Brantley-Newton, artist, speaks about her art on display in *Celebrating Collage*



Elizabeth Zunon talks about her work in *Celebrating Collage*



The Museum's Alix Kennedy, artist Kathryn Brown, and a guest discuss art on view in the *Recent Acquisitions* exhibition.



Chief Curator Ellen Keiter and guests discussing art on view in the *Recent Acquisitions* exhibition.



Ellen Keiter introduces the *Celebrating Collage* exhibition to visitors.







## Education, Scholarship, and Lifelong Learning

**The Carle has three interpretive objectives: to expand and deepen an appreciation for picture book art; to empower people to make meaning through words and images; and to connect people through picture book art and picture books.**

This approach is inspired by the early-learning centers found in Pistoia and Reggio Emilia, Italy, and by Visual Thinking Strategies.

The early-childhood centers in Pistoia and Reggio Emilia, Italy, are guided by respect for the intelligence of young children and their desire to make meaning of the world around them. Their educators believe children have “the right and the ability to express their thinking, theories, ideas, learning, and emotions in many ways.”

### Professional Development

Ongoing workshops, which are presented online and on site, teach educators how to look carefully at the art and design of a book, and to integrate picture books and art-making into their classrooms and libraries. Last year, these programs engaged 1,107 participants. The Carle’s educators have developed specific workshops to

address priority curriculum areas including “Exploring Race and Representation in Picture Books” and “Little Books, Big Feelings: Picture Books and Social-Emotional Learning.”



Educator workshop

In addition to providing professional development workshops to educators, librarians, and school districts, The Carle again partnered with the Massachusetts StrongStart Professional Development System to offer ongoing virtual professional learning communities (PLCs) that meet more frequently and allow for deeper, responsive learning for participating early-learning educators. The Carle offered 12 PLCs through StrongStart in Fiscal Year 2023, and piloted bilingual workshops.

### Youth Programs

The Carle’s youth outreach offerings provide art and literacy programs for schools as well as community and youth organizations. Bonding with Books, which originated as a 2018 grant-funded literacy initiative supporting neighboring low-income communities, continues with local partners. They include Home City Families (Springfield, MA) and Worcester Family Partnership (Worcester, MA). These early literacy programs feature interactive storytimes and distribute picture books and other resources to support early learning at home.

Like many other museums, The Carle began offering more outreach programs virtually in early 2020. As a content provider for Streamable Learning, a platform that provides interactive streaming for K-12 students, The Carle is able to connect with schools throughout the country. For the past two years we have also developed a partnership with Connected North, providing virtual education programming for remote Indigenous communities throughout Canada.



An educator from The Carle leads an outreach program in a school classroom



Storytimes are offered every day. The Carle is open to the public.





## Education, Scholarship, and Lifelong Learning

### Academic Partnerships

Multiple partnerships allow The Carle to greatly expand its reach and share in the scholarly advancement of the field. A key long-term collaboration is with the Center for the Study of Children's Literature at Simmons University in Boston. For more than 40 years, the Center has been the preeminent graduate program for students interested in the field of children's literature. With Simmons, The Carle hosts graduate degree programs, including an onsite MFA in Writing for Children and an MA in Children's Literature.

Educational partnerships with local colleges and universities include service-learning collaborations with Holyoke Community College (HCC) and the University of Massachusetts Amherst (UMass). For the past five years, The Carle's art educators have worked with HCC's Early Childhood Education program, providing workshops and hands-on museum experiences for pre-service teachers. A more recent partnership with UMass Amherst supported a course titled "Community, Storytelling, and Translation." Following training with The Carle's literacy educator, students prepared a series of bilingual storytimes and presented them at the Museum. Multilingual May included storytimes in Arabic, Mandarin, Quechua, and Spanish.



A UMass Amherst student facilitates bilingual storytimes in The Reading Library during Multilingual May

### The Barbara Elleman Research Library (BERL)

This non-circulating book collection of more than 1,000 volumes was amassed by Barbara Elleman over the course of her 30-year career in the field of children's literature. The collection features author and illustrator biographies, literary criticism, catalogs of international and national picture book art exhibitions, periodicals, and related ephemera. The collection is available to scholars and students by appointment. Each spring, The Carle invites a scholar, librarian, artist, or publishing professional to deliver the Barbara Elleman Research Library Lecture.



A college student views research materials in the BERL



Adult and children enjoy books in the Reading Library



### The Carle Bookshop

A destination in its own right, The Carle Bookshop specializes in titles that support the Museum's goal to be inclusive and to encourage early literacy. The shop is nationally known for its large picture book section, which includes many signed books, and for its vast selection of Eric Carle books and merchandise. There also is a large selection of books for adult readers. Displays typically reflect the exhibitions on view as well as featured programs. For example, in Fiscal Year 2023, the shop featured (and sold out of) hard-to-find World of Eric Carle items imported from Japan to support the exhibition *Eric Carle Loves Japan*.



A young Carle Bookshop customer digs into expertly curated books



The very best bookstore for picture books in the entire world.” — Parents' Choice Foundation

— Parents' Choice Foundation





## Everyday Art Project

### Fueling the Love of Art and Art-Making

The Art Studio's Everyday Art Project welcomes people of all ages to play with materials and make art together. Activities and materials change regularly and are inspired by the Museum's exhibitions. The charming results are showcased in creative displays throughout the Art Studio.

The space and programming of The Carle Art Studio is supported by a generous annual sponsorship from Penguin Books For Young Readers.



Examples of some Everyday Art Projects





## The 2022 Carle Honors



The Carle hosted its 16th annual gala and fundraiser on September 22, 2022, celebrating individuals and organizations whose creative vision and long-term dedication have had a profound effect on picture books and the vital role they play in arts appreciation and early literacy. Children's literature historian and critic Leonard S. Marcus chairs the committee that selects the honorees each year.

The 16th Annual Carle Honors raised in excess of \$250,000 for the Museum and its programming and exhibitions. Co-chaired by Suzanne Collins and Cap Pryor, the 2022 Carle Honors were presented to the recipients (featured on the facing page) of these four distinctive awards:

- **Artist**, for lifelong innovation in the field
- **Angel**, whose generous resources are crucial to making illustrated children's book art exhibitions, education programs, and related projects a reality
- **Bridge**, individuals and organizations who have found inspired ways to bring the art of the picture book to larger audiences through work in other fields.
- **Mentor**, editors, designers, and educators who champion the art form



Rockefeller Productions Puppeteers



Funding trustee and Carle Honors Committee Chair Leonard S. Marcus



Director of Development Rebecca Miller Goggins



Bryan Collier, Trustee and artist



Alix Kennedy

**Carle Honors Artist Faith Ringgold** is a painter, mixed media sculptor, teacher, lecturer, and author of numerous award-winning children's books. Her first children's book, the renowned *Tar Beach*, won more than 20 awards, including a 1991 Caldecott Honor and the Coretta Scott King Award. A creative and cultural force, her work is in the permanent collections of numerous museums in the US and abroad, and continues to influence younger artists.

**Carle Honors Angel Dolly Parton's Imagination Library** was represented by President Jeff Conyers. The nonprofit inspires a lifelong love of books and learning by mailing specially selected books monthly to the homes of registered children, from birth to age 5. The Imagination Library gifts more than 1.8 million books *each month* internationally and has given more than 180 million books since inception.

**Carle Honors Bridge Aja** (阿甲) is one of China's foremost translators of Western children's books and an influential storyteller, author, and educator. In addition to writing his own picture books and books about children's literature, he has translated more than 200 picture books from English to Chinese.

**Carle Honors Mentors Wade and Cheryl Hudson** are authors, publishers, and leading advocates for equity, diversity, and inclusion in the children's book industry. In 1988, they founded Just Us Books to publish children's literature that centers around and celebrates Black people, history, and culture.

## Honorees



Faith Ringgold



Jeff Conyers



Aja (阿甲)



Wade Hudson



Cheryl Hudson

Above photos: Faith Ringgold by Grace Matthews.  
Wade and Cheryl Hudson  
© 2nd Chapter Photo All rights reserved 2017





# To New Heights



## Honoring Alix Kennedy's 15 Years!

In November 2023, The Carle celebrated and honored Alix Kennedy's 15 years of extraordinary leadership, expanding the depth and breadth of the Museum and setting the stage for The Carle to reach new heights. The event was a great success, raising more than \$240,000 to support inclusion, collections care, and free access to the Museum, and acquiring 47 works of art by 37 artists as gifts to our permanent collection.

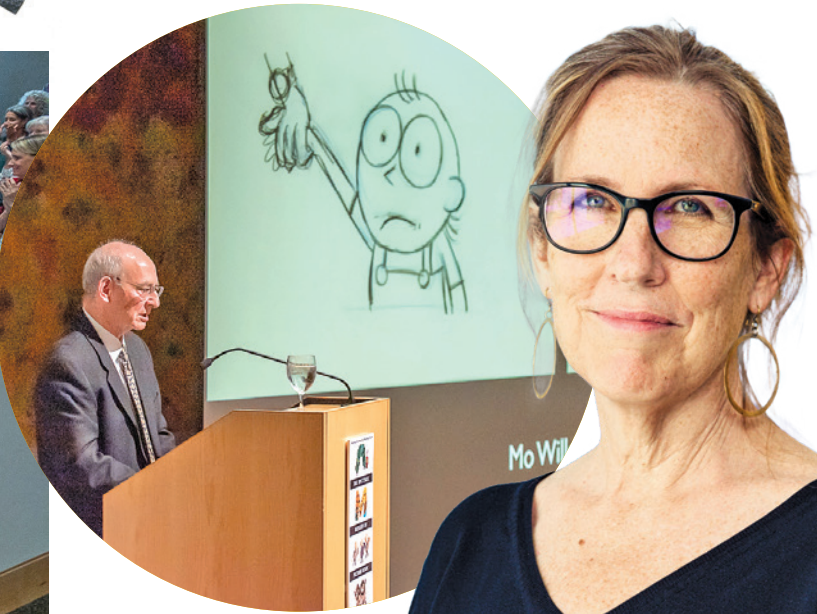
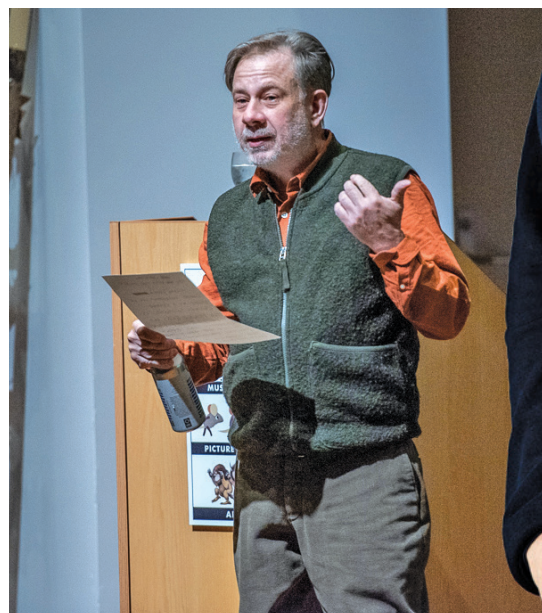


Alix Kennedy graciously receives a standing ovation during the To New Heights Fundraiser celebrating her 15 years of incredible leadership.

Presenters included Board Chair William Gorth (top right) and Executive Director, The Eric and Barbara Carle foundation, Rolf Carle (bottom right).

Attendees included widely acclaimed picture book artists and authors (bottom middle)

Executive Director Jennifer Schantz with her predecessor Alix Kennedy (bottom left)



## A Thank-You from the Executive Director Emerita

For me, Fiscal Year 2023 was all about change. Last November, I announced to the board and senior staff that I wanted to step down as Executive Director after 15 years. I was eager to find time for my own projects—writing and consulting—and I was confident the Museum was thriving and in a good place for new leadership. It wasn't an easy decision, though. The Carle had been the professional opportunity of a lifetime for me, and the Board and I were determined to make the transition seamless.

I'm really proud now as I look back over the last year. After conducting a thoughtful national search process, including input from senior staff, the Board named Jennifer Schantz our new executive director. Passionate about the mission, highly skilled, and with 20 years of museum experience already under her belt, she was clearly the right choice.

Jen and I then overlapped for a couple of months this fall—a huge opportunity we both threw ourselves into. She will be developing a new strategic plan in 2024, and we wanted her to be ready. She took over the day-to-day operations from day one, while I hosted a dizzying “meet our supporters and partners” tour for the two of us. We also spent hours reviewing in depth the history of the Museum. She's more than ready now and is already turning to new ways to make the next 20 years even more exciting.

As for me, my last day with The Carle was November 21. I'm staying put in Western Massachusetts and have already started putting upcoming Museum events on my 2024 calendar. I really hope I'll see you there.

*Alix Kennedy*

**Alexandra Kennedy**  
Executive Director  
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Staff members meet each morning before the Museum opens to plan for guests, school groups, and staffing needs for the day





## Beloved Co-Founders

**Eric and Barbara Carle founded The Carle in 2002 to celebrate and elevate picture book art.** “It has been said that picture books are an introduction to literature for young children,” Carle said. “We also wanted to introduce our youngest guests, so new to museums, to the joys of looking at art.”

The Carle board and staff remain deeply grateful for the Carles’ generosity and vision, and are proud to carry on their legacy for all picture book artists and those who love their work. The Eric and Barbara Carle Foundation continues to be a major supporter of the Museum’s work.

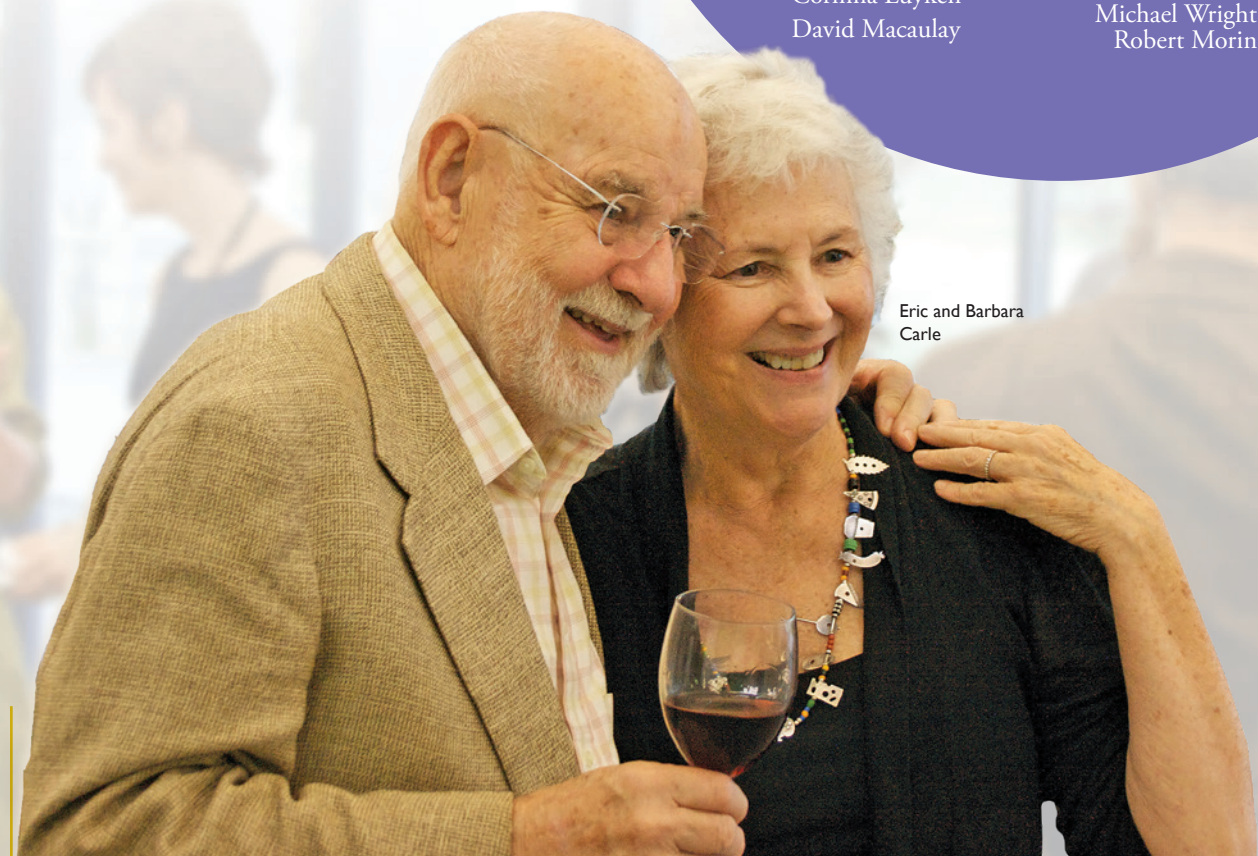


Eric Carle attending a Museum exhibition opening celebrating the 50th Anniversary of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* in 2018



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Eric and Barbara Carle

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July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023



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“What could be better than a place that caters to children’s learning, creativity, beautiful art, and thoughtful exhibits that promote different perspectives and insights? The Carle does it all! I love it!”

— Lou Ann Daly, Supporter

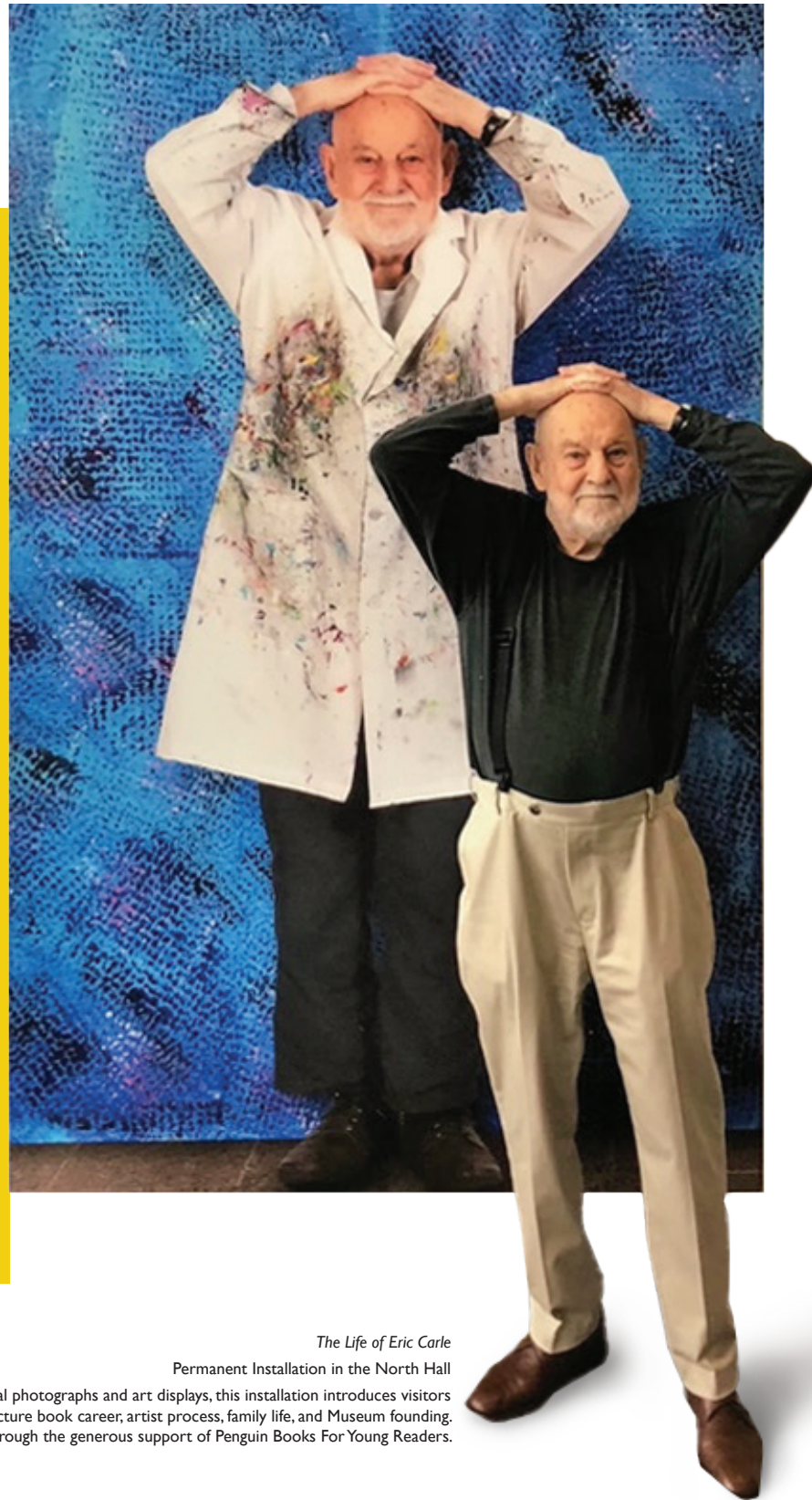






All of the arts are so important for all people no matter their age. It is our common humanity.”

— Eric Carle,  
Artist and Author



*The Life of Eric Carle*

Permanent Installation in the North Hall

Through personal photographs and art displays, this installation introduces visitors to Carle's early years, picture book career, artist process, family life, and Museum founding. The exhibition was made possible through the generous support of Penguin Books For Young Readers.







## The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art

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[www.carlemuseum.org](http://www.carlemuseum.org)

