

ERIC CARLE

UNDER

THE SEA

A TRAVELING EXHIBITION

Organized by

THE ERIC CARLE MUSEUM
OF PICTURE BOOK ART



"Kracken"

Dragons Dragons & Other Creatures that Never Were, compiled by Laura Whipple, 1991

Collage of acrylic-painted tissue paper with watercolor and pastel on illustration board

The kracken is a legendary sea monster believed to live in the North Atlantic waters between Norway and Greenland. First mentioned in the 13th century, the kracken attacks ships with its giant tentacles and devours the crews aboard. Carle combines collage with exuberant painting to depict his imaginary scene.



ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art has organized the traveling exhibition *Under the Sea with Eric Carle*. It explores the ways Carle combines research and imaginative storytelling to explore the underwater world in his picture books. *Under the Sea* features 50 original collages and ephemera from 11 picture books, including the popular titles *A House for Hermit Crab* (1987), *Mister Seahorse* (2004), and *10 Little Rubber Ducks* (2005). Penguins in arctic waters and jellyfish in tropical seas, along with playful dolphins, seals, turtles, and whales make appearances in this delightful and colorful presentation. Carle also pictures mythological sea creatures—mermaids, leviathans, and the legendary kraken—to spark young imaginations.

ABOUT ERIC CARLE

Eric Carle (1929–2021) was one of the best-known illustrators of our time. The creator of more than 70 picture books, he combined winsome stories and exuberant collages that appeal to young readers and adults alike. Carle was the renowned author and illustrator of the 1969 classic *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.

ABOUT THE ERIC CARLE MUSEUM OF PICTURE BOOK ART

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

Eric and Barbara Carle co-founded the Museum in November 2002. Since opening, the 43,000-square foot facility has welcomed nearly one million visitors. The Carle houses 9,000 permanent collection illustrations. It has three art galleries, an art studio, a theater, picture book and scholarly libraries, and educational programs for families, scholars, educators, and school children. 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 with Simmons University. The Museum offers digital resources, including art activities, book recommendations, collections, exhibition videos, and workshops for online visitors. Learn more at www.carlemuseum.org

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FEATURED ARTWORKS

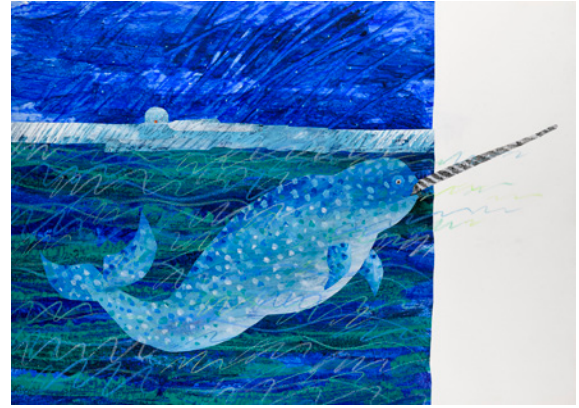


“As Mr. Seahorse drifted gently through the sea, he passed right by... several leaf fish”

Mister Seahorse, 2004

Collage of acrylic-painted tissue paper with watercolor on illustration board

True of many of his stories, Carle simultaneously creates endearing characters while also imparting interesting factual information. *Mister Seahorse* follows a male seahorse as he encounters fellow fish fathers who also care for their soon-to-hatch offspring. Here Mr. Seahorse meets two leaf fish, initially hidden from readers behind a printed overlay in the book.



“Narwhal”

Animals Animals compiled by Laura Whipple, 1989

Collage of acrylic-painted tissue paper with pastel on illustration board

Narwhals may be nicknamed “unicorns of the sea,” but they are real animals. Narwhals can be found in the Arctic waters around Greenland, Canada, and Russia. What looks like a long horn is actually a tooth. Here Carle depicts a narwhal whose tooth breaks free of its surrounding blue and green painted papers.

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FEATURED ARTWORKS CONTINUED

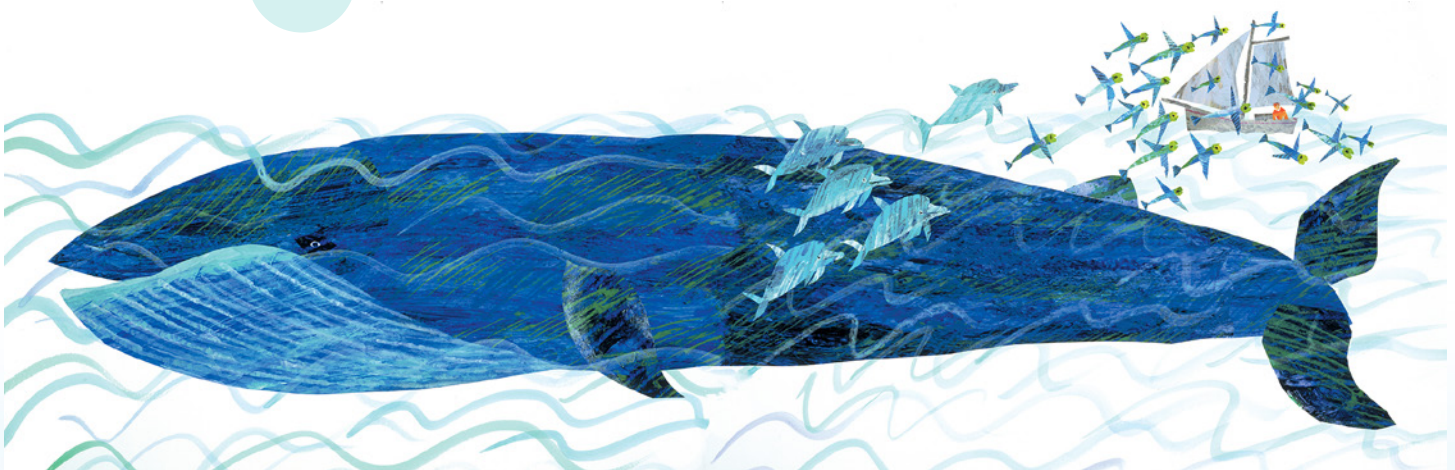


"In July, Hermit Crab came upon several sea urchins"

A House for Hermit Crab, 1987

Collage of acrylic-painted tissue paper with felt tip pen and wax crayon on illustration board

This charming tale tracks Hermit Crab's search for a new home. Carle's marine creatures include sea anemones, starfish, corals, and lanternfish who help to decorate and protect Hermit Crab's shell. The action unfolds over 12 months; it is a story celebrating nature, but also one about adjustment and growing up.



"Blue Whale"

Animals Animals compiled by Laura Whipple, 1989

Collage of acrylic-painted tissue paper with watercolor on illustration board

Once abundant, blue whales were hunted almost to extinction until protected by the international community in 1966. At up to 100 feet in length and 200 tons, the blue whale is the largest animal ever to exist on earth. It is fitting that Carle depicts his blue whale across two pages.

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FEATURED ARTWORKS CONTINUED



“Undersea”

Dragons Dragons & Other Creatures that Never Were, compiled by Laura Whipple, 1991

Collage of acrylic-painted tissue paper with watercolor pencil on illustration board

Carle’s illustration of a mermaid surrounded by colorful sea creatures complements Marchette Chute’s poem *Undersea*, which references dancing dolphins, prancing lobsters, and trotting oysters.

“Sea Lion, Sea Lion, what do you see?”

Panda Bear, Panda Bear, What Do You See?
by Bill Martin, Jr., 2003

Collage of acrylic-painted tissue paper with watercolor on illustration board

Panda Bear features ten endangered animals, raising conservation awareness among young readers. Sea lions are vulnerable to disease and the effects of climate change, which impacts their food sources. They are also victims of bycatch, the accidental entanglement in fishing nets.



Carle’s watery blue and green lines indicate the sea lion in motion. Sea lions can swim in bursts up to 25 mph, but generally prefer a slower rate.

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FEATURED ARTWORKS CONTINUED



All Around Us, 1986

Collages of acrylic-painted tissue paper on illustration board

Carle created these collages for a three-book box set called *All Around Us*. They are considered alternate images since they were never published. Compare these collages with those printed in the books to see what changes were made.

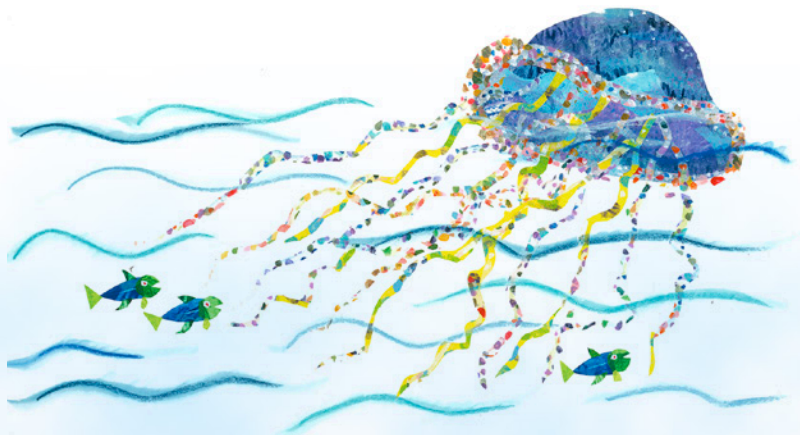


"Jellyfish"

Eric Carle's Tier-ABC by Edmund Jacoby, 1999

Collage of acrylic-painted tissue papers with watercolor and pastel on illustration board

Carle made this jellyfish for a German alphabet book. The illustration appears under the letter "Q"—the German word for jellyfish is Qualle.



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INSTALLATION IMAGES



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EXHIBITION CONTENTS

The exhibition features approximately 50 original artworks, including tissue paper collages, sketches and book dummies, and Carle's early career linocuts. All artworks are professionally framed with hanging hardware and security plates for installation. Exhibition text is included as a Word document; it is the borrower's responsibility to print labels and exhibition graphics. Gallery cases are not included, though objects mounts can be sent upon request.

Organizer: The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art

Curators: The Carle's Chief Curator Ellen Keiter and Director of Education Courtney Waring

Shipping and Insurance: All artwork must travel crated via a fine arts shipper approved by The Carle. A Carle courier may be required to oversee unpacking, condition checks, installation, and lighting. It is the borrowing institution's responsibility to cover all transportation and insurance costs (insurance values will be provided). A certificate of insurance is required.

Gallery Requirements: Borrowing institutions must send an AAM Standard Facility Report and meet the following requirements: ability to control and maintain a stable gallery environment (temperature of 70 degrees F \pm 2, relative humidity of 50% \pm 5%); ability to control and maintain light levels at 5 to 7-foot candles; and 24-hour security monitoring. Ideal gallery size is 1,500 to 2,000 square feet, or approximately 140 linear feet, depending on density of hanging and exhibition build outs.

Media: The Carle will provide 10-12 high resolution images with cleared permissions to use for publicity and exhibition graphics.

Dates: The exhibition was presented at The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art from September 7, 2019 to September 6, 2020 and is available to travel beginning in July 2024.

Participation Fee: \$40,000 for a three-month venue. Crating, shipping, insurance, and courier expenses are separate from the Participation Fee.

Contact: Ellen Keiter, Chief Curator, 413-559-6320
ellenk@carlemuseum.org

The featured artworks in this prospectus are not guaranteed to travel. Original collages of similar subjects and sizes to be determined.

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Eric Carle in his studio.

*Image courtesy of
The Eric Carle Museum
of Picture Book Art.*




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