



THE ERIC CARLE MUSEUM OF PICTURE BOOK ART



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Letter from the Board Chair and Executive Director

Award-winning artist, longtime friend and founding trustee of The Carle, Jerry Pinkney, when speaking about his own life and work, talked about *drawing the dream together*. At The Carle, so much of our work feels true to this sentiment. We are partners with each other as a staff and board, and collaborators with artists, authors and other professionals in the museum field. We are drawing a dream together in an ongoing way with our visitors, carrying on the dream and legacy of our cofounders Eric and Bobbie Carle, whose vision and generosity made The Eric Carle Museum a reality when it opened to the public 22 years ago.

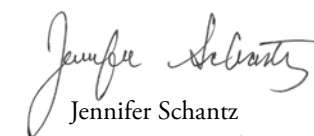
One year into our work together at The Carle, as the new executive director and board chair, we continue dreaming of ways to elevate picture book art here in Amherst and beyond. We are developing new programs and events in our galleries and throughout the building as well as online. We have opened our doors wider to invite visitors to gallery tours and member previews, new exhibitions, lectures, and storytimes. And we are bringing exhibitions to countries around the world. We have expanded our reach through online resources such as the Bloomberg Connects app, a digital guide to cultural institutions, and our Collections pages, which are now viewable on our website. We are also excited to announce the recent acquisition of Jerry Pinkney's lion from his brilliant Caldecott-winning adaptation of *The Lion & the Mouse*.

It is a dream to be here with you all, envisioning the next 20 years at The Carle. We are looking forward to bringing the beauty and hope of picture book art and the ways in which it promotes empathy and kindness as far and wide as we can.

Thank you for your ongoing support and for joining us as we continue to dream our way forward.



William Gorth



Jennifer Schantz



WILLIAM GORTH

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Director of Education



We Love Picture Book Art!

At a time when the world can feel divided and uncertain, picture book art offers us a reminder of what truly matters: the values of peace, love, and our shared humanity. Art—particularly picture book art—has a pivotal role in shaping young minds and fostering a world of hope.

Cofounded by Eric and Barbara Carle in 2002 to celebrate the art of the picture book, we collect, preserve, and exhibit original picture book art and encourage guests of all ages to appreciate and foster the love of picture book art.

Situated on 7.5 acres in Amherst, Massachusetts, The Carle houses a rich and deep collection of art, and illuminates its collection through exhibitions, education, programming, and art making—making it a critical resource for picture book artists and authors, and art-loving communities locally, nationally, and abroad. Since opening its doors more than 21 years ago, The Carle has welcomed more than one million visitors—plus more than four million additional museumgoers who have enjoyed its touring exhibitions around the world.



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Exhibitions

In Fiscal Year 2024, the Museum presented six exhibitions in its three galleries, celebrating the art of the picture book by United States and international artists. The Carle also travelled its exhibitions all over the world, including Asia and the Middle East.



Environmental Eric Carle
September 2, 2023 - March 3, 2024



Kid in a Candy Store: The Picture Book Art of Seymour Chwast
November 18, 2023 - April 21, 2024



Alphabet Soup: How Picture Books Are Made, From A to Z
January 13 - June 2, 2024

Eric Carle, Illustration for *The Mountain that Loved a Bird* by Alice McLerran.
Collection of Eric and Barbara Carle. © 1985 Penguin Random House LLC.

Seymour Chwast, Illustration for *The 12 Circus Rings*.
Seymour Chwast Collection, Washington University Libraries, Department of Special Collections. © 1993 Seymour Chwast

Innosanto Nagara, Illustration for *A is for activist*.
Collection of the artist. © 2012 Innosanto Nagara.

Children from different places in the world should be able to identify
a house like their own at least once
in order that their surroundings may also take part in fairy tales.
ROGER MELLO



Birdwatching with Eric Carle
March 16 - August 25, 2024



Pictures at Play: Metafiction in Art
May 4 - November 3, 2024



Invention & Imagination in the Art of Roger Mello
June 16, 2024 - January 5, 2025

Eric Carle, Illustration for *Do You Want to Be My Friend?*
Collection of Eric and Barbara Carle. © 1971 Penguin Random House LLC.

Tony DiTerlizzi, Artwork for *A Very Cranky Book* by Angela DiTerlizzi.
Collection of the artist. © 2023 Tony & Angela DiTerlizzi.

Roger Mello, Artwork for *Lemon Butterfly* by Cao Wenxuan (Reycraft Books).
Collection of the artist. © 2017 Roger Mello.



New Acquisitions: Jerry Pinkney's *The Lion & the Mouse*

Thanks to the generous support of many funders, The Carle made the monumental acquisition of the cover image for Jerry Pinkney's Caldecott-winning adaptation of *The Lion & the Mouse*. Because of this support, Gloria Jean Pinkney, Pinkney's wife and creative collaborator for more than 60 years, generously gifted an additional 39 related artworks from the book. This acquisition honors the long-standing relationship Jerry Pinkney had with the Museum. A founding trustee, Pinkney's own work closely aligned with the Museum's belief in the power of visual literacy. We are excited to be the home of these seminal works and to share them with our visitors for years to come. The artwork debuted in a special installation at the Museum on September 7, 2024.



I learned that through my own creativity, the world was limitless... All along, I was drawing my dream.”

Jerry Pinkney



Jerry Pinkney, Illustration for *The Lion & the Mouse* (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers). Gift of Gloria Pinkney. © 2009 Jerry Pinkney.



Jerry Pinkney, Illustration for *The Lion & the Mouse* (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers). Museum purchase with acquisition funds from The Carle as well as support from Janet and Bill Gorth, Zora and Les Charles, H. Nichols B. Clark, Jane Bayard Curley, Shelley and Jonathan Isaacson, Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, Xeric Foundation, Judee Rainville and Christopher B. Milne, Cathryn Mercier, Josalyn Moran, Leslie and Paul Cooper, Rebecca Miller Goggins and Mark Goggins, Ellen Keiter and Jordan Kern, and Alexandra Kennedy and James Haug. © 2009 Jerry Pinkney.

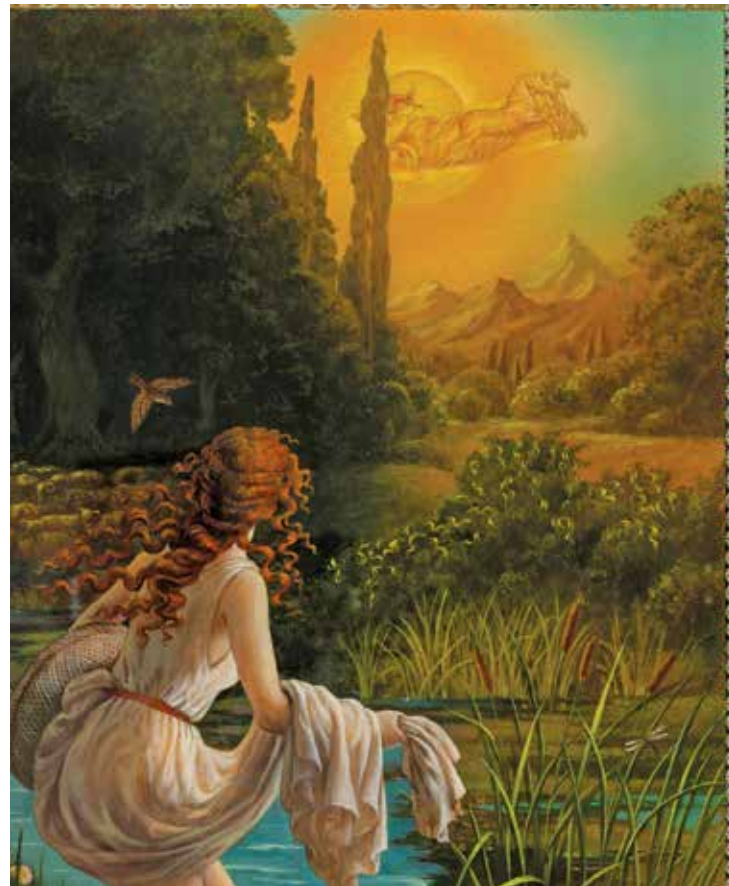


New Acquisitions

The Carle added 400 works to its permanent collection, which now includes more than 11,000 works of art by more than 320 artists. The art in the permanent collection dates from the late 19th century to the present and consists primarily of works on paper, including significant holdings by artists Ashley Bryan, Remy Charlip, Antonio Frasconi, Leo Lionni, Arnold Lobel, Petra Mathers, Alice Bolam Preston, William Steig, Susanne Suba, Simms Taback, and Leonard Weisgard. The Carle also completed processing more than 1,000 works from our William Steig collection, thanks to the generous support of Jeanne Steig.

During former Chief Curator Ellen Keiter's tenure, The Carle secured more than 4,000 acquisitions. They include a recent gift of 81 masterpieces from the Charles Collection, as well as Remy Charlip's picture book art archive. We wish Ellen a bright future as she explores her next steps and hope that she visits her friends here at The Carle often!

Kinuko Y. Craft, Illustration for *Cupid and Psyche*, by M. Charlotte Craft (HarperCollins). Gift of The Charles Collection. ©1996 Kinuko Y. Craft.



Jerry Pinkney, Illustration for *The Little Red Hen* (Dial Books). Gift of The Charles Collection. ©2006 Jerry Pinkney.



Trina Schart Hyman, Illustration for *Little Red Riding Hood*, 1983. Gift of The Charles Collection. ©1983 Trina Schart Hyman.



Long-time supporters and art collectors **Zora and Les Charles** donated 81 artworks to The Carle in Fiscal Year 24, a truly transformative gift. This year's incredible gift includes works by Ludwig Bemelmans, Kinuko Y. Craft, Leo and Diane Dillon, Edmund Dulac, Trina Schart Hyman, Barry Moser, Brian Pinkney, Jerry Pinkney, Beatrix Potter, and more! The Carle's collection has been immeasurably enriched by the Charles's generosity. They have contributed not only the original art, but also the funding to accession and catalogue it—a critical (and expensive) step in the process for us as we carry out our mission to conserve, preserve, and share picture book art.

Brian Pinkney, Illustration for *Duke Ellington: The Piano Prince and His Orchestra* by Andrea Davis Pinkney (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers). Gift of the Charles Collection. ©2007 Brian Pinkney.



Beatrix Potter, Illustration for *The Tailor of Gloucester*, 1902. Gift of the Charles Collection.



An Art Museum for Everyone



Books and reading spaces can be found throughout the Museum, so impromptu storytimes happen all around The Carle.

Guests created artwork inspired by *Birdwatching* with Eric Carle.

Trustees Teresa Toro and Waleska Santiago-Centeno.

Whether you are a creator, art lover, student, or scholar, imagination is sparked with exhibitions such as *Alphabet Soup: How Picture Books Are Made, From A to Z*, pictured here.



Programs

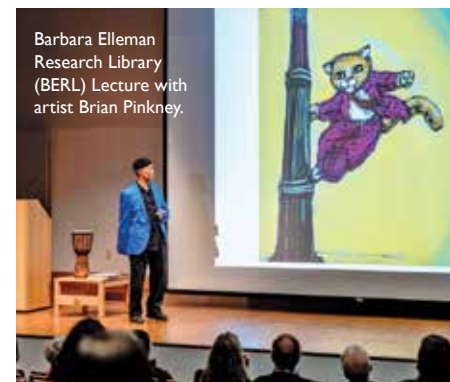
In Fiscal Year 2024, we presented 110 onsite and 26 virtual programs, and welcomed 60 artists and authors, including Cece Bell, Juana Martinez Neal, Emma Oheguy, Cecilia Ruiz, Sydney Smith, Ilan Stavans, and Katie Yamasaki. On October 4, 2023, author Cynthia Leitich Smith was keynote speaker for our annual Educators' Night, and on April 6, 2024, we held our annual Barbara Elleman Research Library (BERL) Lecture with artist Brian Pinkney.

Close to 5,000 visitors participated in The Carle's onsite events, including a Moon Festival Celebration with Grace Lin, a discussion between Seymour Chwast and Leonard S. Marcus, a presentation with birds of prey rehabilitator Tom Ricardi, and a panel discussion with artists included in the exhibition *Pictures at Play: Metafiction in Art*. Our virtual events, including programs with the Chihiro Art Museum (Japan), Latin American publishing house Tapioca Stories, and a virtual classroom program with Grace Lin, attracted 7,300 online visitors from all over the world.

During this fiscal year, we also launched a public tour program facilitated by Carle curators, educators, and staff of Story Chasers, a monthly program that invites families to delve more deeply into our art collection.



Grace Lin with students from Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School celebrating Moon Festival with Reader's Theater and Draw-Along.



Barbara Elleman Research Library (BERL) Lecture with artist Brian Pinkney.



Cecilia Ruiz reads from her book, *Mr. Fiorello's Head*.



Cynthia Leitich Smith, keynote speaker for Educators' Night, signs books for guests.



Emma Oheguy with her book, *Martina Has Too Many Tias*.

Lifelong Learning

Since opening, The Carle has provided professional development and workshops for over 54,000 teachers, librarians, and students in more than 15 states around the country. In Fiscal Year 2024, Carle educators also provided programs for groups in Canada, China, Japan, and Spain. Locally, The Carle continued to collaborate with community partners, including student learning opportunities with Amherst College's Center for Community Engagement and literacy programs for incarcerated caregivers in partnership with Belding Memorial Library (Ashfield, MA).

As part of our commitment to creating a welcoming and accessible environment for all, The Carle is the first art museum in Massachusetts to offer EnChroma eyewear to visitors with color vision deficiencies and we are now a certified partner with KultureCity® to provide accommodations for people with sensory differences.



Everyday Art Project inspired by the *Birdwatching with Eric Carle* exhibition.

1,665
visitors attended our field trip programs

729 educators attended our professional development programs

7,300
visitors participated in The Carle's online events

Simmons College students gathered in the Reading Library.



The exhibition *Pictures at Play: Metafiction in Art* sparked this Everyday Art Project.



Tour of Bobbie's Meadow with landscape designer Owen Wormser.



Barbara Elleman Research Library



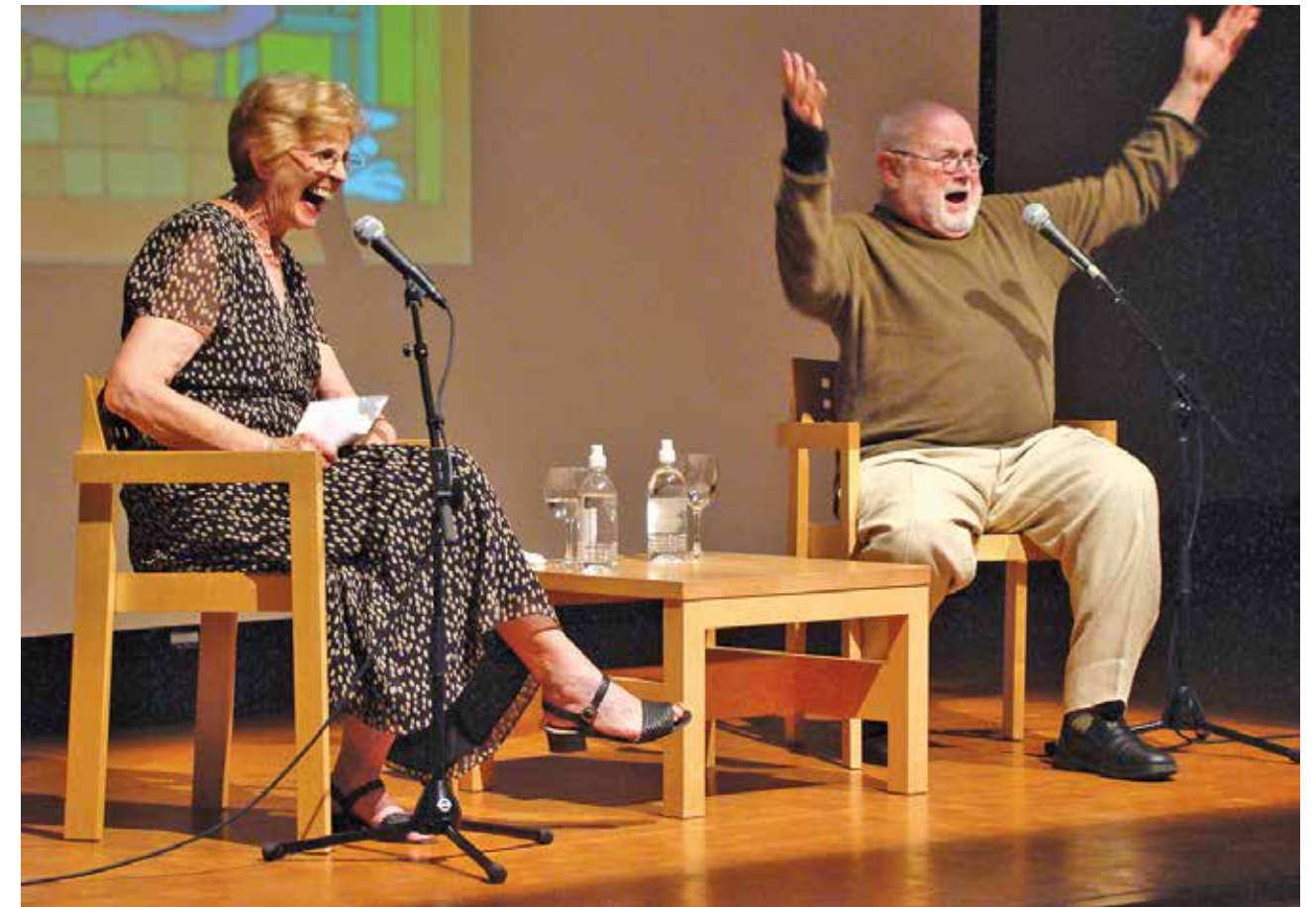
The Barbara Elleman Research Library continues to serve scholars and students by appointment.

The Carle has lost one of its dearest friends. Our beloved Barbara Elleman—trustee emerita, guest curator, and founder of our research library that bears her name—passed away peacefully in Amherst on October 10, 2024. The author of four books exploring the work of artists Virginia Lee Burton and Tomie dePaola respectively, Barbara curated two exhibitions at The Carle and founded the annual BERL Lecture Series that brings esteemed editors, librarians, scholars, and illustrators to the Museum each spring. Past speakers include Patricia Lee Gauch (2011); Betsy Hearne (2012); Peter Sís (2013); Timothy Young (2014); Jerry Pinkney (2015); Grace Lin (2016); Steven Kellogg (2017); Anita Silvey (2018); Neal Porter (2019); Wendell Minor (2022); Dr. Jonda C. McNair (2023); and Brian Pinkney (2024).

Barbara and her husband, Don, were friends and supporters of the Museum back when it was still a mere architectural rendering. Their commitment and dedication, from Barbara's tenure as a trustee to her work as a guest curator to their generous financial support were critical to the Museum's early success. Central to the legacy they created is the Barbara Elleman Research Library, or the BERL as it's called among the staff. **The Carle now holds more than 5,000 books within the Barbara Elleman collection.** This collection of scholarly works allows The Carle to offer its resources as a center for picture book investigation and research for students, scholars, and educators. Barbara loved The Carle, and we loved Barbara.



Barbara Elleman and Betty Matthews, librarian



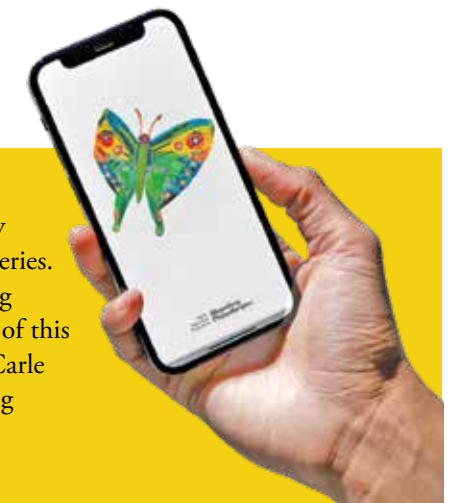
Barbara Elleman interviewing Tomie dePaola during his 2009 exhibition *Drawings from the Heart: Tomie dePaola Turns 75*

Bloomberg Connects



The Carle joined the Bloomberg Connects app in April 2024. Now, picture book art lovers around the world can explore our Museum along with over 600 others; can try Museum art projects at home, access multilingual content; hear from Eric Carle, artists, curators,

and Museum staff; and enjoy video highlights from our galleries. We are grateful to Bloomberg Philanthropies for its support of this wonderful way to make The Carle accessible to an ever-expanding audience.



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In Memoriam

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FY 24 through November 1, 2024

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Nadiana Lopez,
Guest Services Associate
Ethan Meigs,
Guest Services Associate
Darwin Michener-Rutledge,
Guest Services Associate
Isabelle Ness,
Guest Services Associate
Susan Norton,
Guest Services Associate
Barbara Smith,
Guest Services Associate

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Director of Operations
Stephanie VanZandt,
Human Resources Generalist

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Admin & Leadership Intern*
Francesca Dawn,
2023–2024 Collections Intern
Lily Garcia,
2023 Trinkett Clark Intern
MacAna Gilkerson, *2023
Alix Zacharias Admin &
Leadership Intern*
Kat Kayser, *2024 Education Intern*
Catherine Keough,
2024 Trinkett Clark Intern
Callie Meyer, *2023 Alix Zacharias
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Rebekah Rennick,
2023–2024 Collections Intern
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Sophia Ortega
Alex Robinson
Jay Sugden

Development Work-Study Students

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Reading Library Work-Study Students

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Fiscal Year 2024 Contributors

July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

We are grateful to our generous contributors who make it possible for The Carle to elevate the beloved medium of picture book art! Donation levels include cumulative giving during FY 24 to our membership, business membership, annual fund, and other giving categories.

An asterisk* indicates a bequest.

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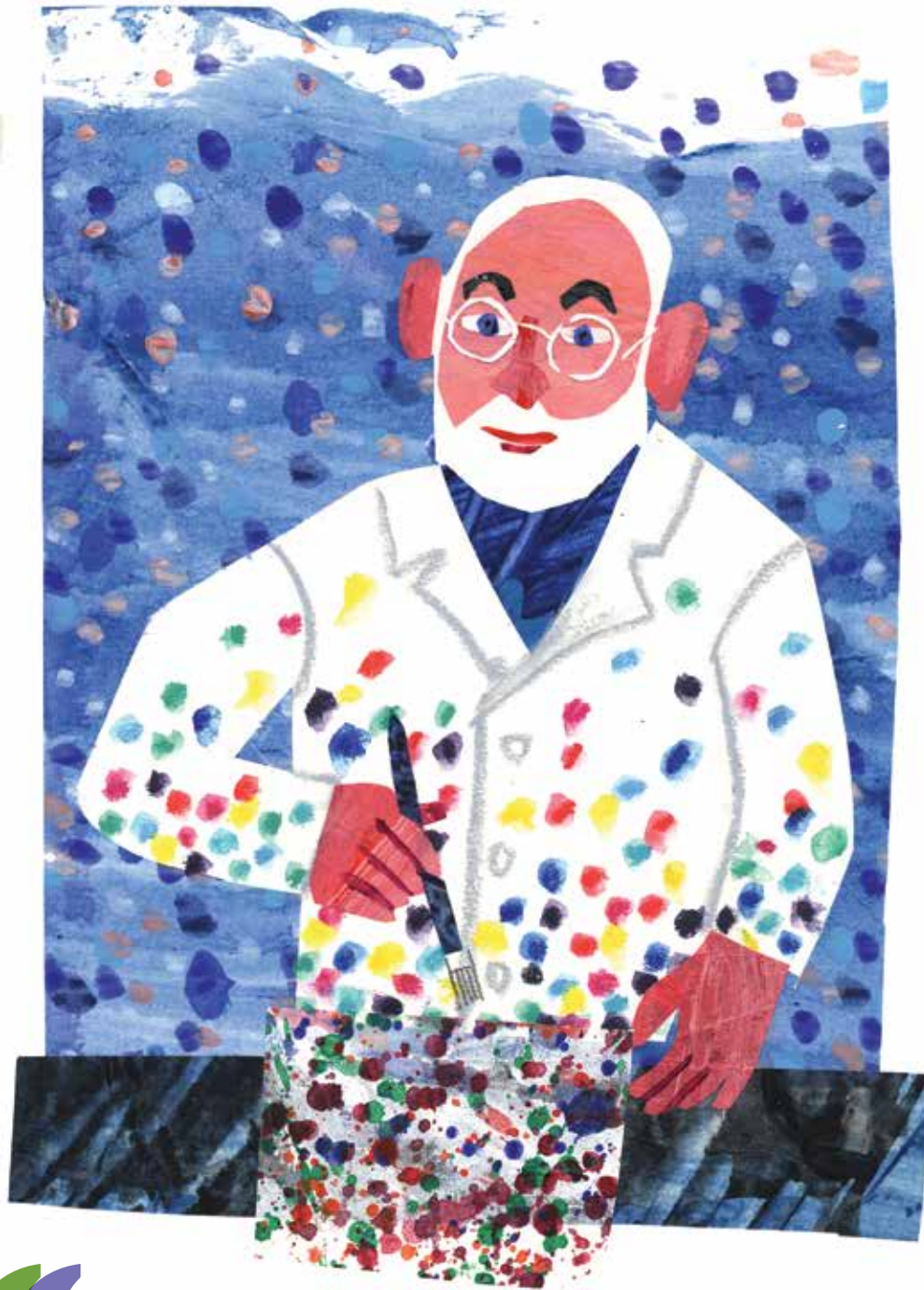
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“Nowhere is there more alluring imagination at work than at The Carle, in illustrations and words. For after all, is there a more fierce and awesome and freeing force than imagination?”

— Robert L. Forbes, supporter



Download our digital Museum guide from Bloomberg Connects



**“We are alike in the same ways,”
a child once wrote to me.
“I like colors and you like colors,
I like words and you like words.”**

— Eric Carle

Eric Carle, Illustration for *You Can Make a Collage: A Very Simple How-To Book*. Collection of Eric and Barbara Carle.
© 1998 Penguin Random House LLC.





The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art

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