Children’s Book Art: Techniques and Media

*Children’s Book Art: Techniques and Media* is the newest digital asset from the Children’s Literature Research Collections’ digital exhibits project (see sidebar on page 4). This exhibit will showcase art from within the Kerlan Collection, and provide an invaluable resource for students and members of the public who are interested in exploring the world of illustration through the artistic techniques employed by the country’s most popular illustrators.

The Kerlan Collection at the University of Minnesota Archives and Special Collections is one of the leading repositories of rare books, process art, and manuscripts of children’s literature. The collections range from rare volumes of Mother Goose from the 1800s to contemporary creators like Jane Yolen, Sharon Creech, Christopher Paul Curtis, and Melissa Sweet.

The University of Minnesota Libraries’ mission is to share these riches with teachers of children, youth services librarians, teachers of teachers, students of creative writing and art, and anyone who is interested in the craft of making children’s books. Our team, staff, volunteers, and interns has created a resource describing children’s book art and how it is made with examples from over sixty artists that are held in the Kerlan Collection. These selected examples are only a fraction of our holdings of finished and process art held in the collection.

We at the Kerlan are aware that not everyone has access to these materials. Anyone who visits us, including scholars, teachers, librarians, and students who are on site may request and examine anything held in our collection. Technology now allows us to share our holdings anywhere there is internet access.

The online publishing platform we use is called Omeka. It is a stable closed system that allows high-resolution scans to load quickly and enlarge without pixelating. It also enables us to update and edit the digitized materials.

We are grateful to the donors of these creative works who have allowed reproduction for educational use. These exhibits would not be possible without the generous donations of the Kerlan Friends, particularly our Special Patrons.

*Children’s Book Art: Techniques and Media* cont. on page 4
Greetings on behalf of the Kerlan Friends Board!

As vacations end, camping trips and summer adventures come to a close, stick with us for more excitement. The Kerlan Friends will soon celebrate a new online exhibit called *Children’s Book Art: Techniques and Media.*

We have chosen around 70 illustrations from the Kerlan Collection that demonstrate the artistic techniques of collage, digital, painting, photography, printmaking, mixed media and scratchboard. We invite you, as a viewer, to study the charcoal up close enough to imagine smudging it onto your nose, see an original woodcut and the resulting print, and learn about scratchboard techniques. As you are studying this exhibit, one important aspect will be seeing artists’ images enlarged to study for use with smartboards and electronic screens without pixelating. In addition to engaging with the the scanned digital reproductions as examples of the techniques, you, as Kerlan Friends, teachers, librarians, students, and researchers can read a description of the artist’s process and a short biography telling about the inspirations and influences of these beloved creators.

JoAnn Mooers Jonas, another Kerlan Friend and volunteer, and I worked with CLRC curator Lisa Von Drasek selecting the artwork and describing the exhibits. We have had four wonderful interns working with us: Natasha Bruns from St.Catherine University, and Osceola Pope, Judith McCroary, and Rachel Johnson from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. These students shared expertise in their majors and learned how to create in the specialized software, Omeka. We appreciated their writing skills, their design skills, and their understanding of a variety of illustrations. In turn, they became familiar with 70 amazing illustrators, manipulated and studied each one’s illustrations, became reacquainted with old favorite books, and discovered many new ones. We are most grateful to each of them.

Here is the website. Scroll down to Children’s Book Art: Techniques and Media. [https://z.umn.edu/digital](https://z.umn.edu/digital)
There is never a moment at CLRC that I am not thinking of the work of Dr. Karen Nelson Hoyle. The Kerlan Collection exists because of the generosity of Dr. Irvin Kerlan, the vision of Dr. Hoyle, and the dedication of our Kerlan Friends.

As we are looking towards the future, 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of Dr. Kerlan’s first gift to the University. To celebrate this significant milestone we have quite a few plans.

Opening in January 2019, there will be a physical exhibit illustrating the history of children’s literature, using the materials from the Children’s Literature Research Collections. We will also be launching the culminating digital exhibit tying together the previous components (Children’s Book Art: Techniques and Media; Balloons Over Broadway: The Engineering of a Picture Book; and future exhibits Red Riding Hood: The Modeling of a Comparative Folklore Study; First Pages: What is the Editorial Process; Word Magic: Children’s Poetry in Process; Rhythm, Rhyme, and Repetition: Early Childhood Children’s Books; Informational Books: The Research Process) to create an open access children’s literature resource. The basis of this exhibit will be the research and writings of children’s literature historian Leonard Marcus, whose exhibit, The ABC of It: Why Children’s Books Matter was a smash hit at the New York Public Library. Minnesotans will have the rare opportunity to hear Leonard Marcus on October 12th at the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the publication of The Poky Little Puppy.

We are asking our Kerlan Friends for help in making this dream a reality. As Mary Schultz has written, it not only takes funds to create these digital assets, but many volunteer hours. We are requesting that Friends who are able, consider a significant donation of $1,000 to support the creation of these specific components.

Thank you for all of your support to this transplant of five years who has bloomed where she was planted.

Celebrating 75th Anniversary of Poky Little Puppy

Thursday, October 12th, 2017 from 6-7 p.m.
Where: The Elmer L. Andersen Library, Room 120
222 – 21st Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55455

5:30 p.m. Doors open
6:00-7:00 p.m. Leonard Marcus and Diane Muldrow presentation
7:00-7:45 p.m. Signing and refreshments
RSVP: z.umn.edu/goldenbooks

Eminent children’s literature historian Leonard Marcus’s Golden Legacy: How Golden Books Won Children’s Hearts, Changed Publishing Forever, and Became an American Icon Along the Way chronicles the fascinating story of the creation, marketing, and worldwide impact of Little Golden Books, the most popular children’s books of all time.

Launched during the dark days of World War II, Golden Books such as The Poky Little Puppy were an instant sensation. Diane Muldrow, editorial director at Golden Books, will join Marcus in conversation, bringing a unique perspective to the history and significance of the beloved series.

This event is made possible through the generous support of the Kerlan Friends, The Friends of the University of Minnesota Libraries, and Penguin Random House.
How is the art created?
A common question from visitors viewing our process and finished art is “How was that art made?” This exhibit provides an overview of common picture book art techniques.

We begin by providing a short definition of specific techniques. For example:

**What is collage?**
Collage is an art form in which compositions are made out of layers, using pieces of paper, cloth, photographs, and other miscellaneous objects, juxtaposed and pasted on a dry background. It can include a mixture of any number of media, textures and dimensions.

We have provided images from three illustrators of this technique held in our collection: Bob Barner, Eric Carle, and Melissa Sweet.

In this digital scan of the original art from *Balloons Over Broadway*, we can observe the materials in Melissa Sweet’s art. The collage includes a repurposed cloth book, including its frayed red boards, cut and pasted letters, torn paper, and strips of fabric samples. We also have her words as to why she chose the collage technique: “With the art, I was emphatic that some of it be three-dimensional in order for the book to feel like Sarg’s studio with toys and paraphernalia everywhere.”

Check out all our exhibits online at [https://z.umn.edu/digital](https://z.umn.edu/digital)
Treasure Trove By Claudia Mills

I came to the Kerlan Collection in May to research the Maud Hart Lovelace materials in preparation for a paper I’m presenting at the Children’s Literature Association conference, focusing on ways in which Lovelace’s beloved Betsy-Tacy series differs from many other literary “portraits of the author as a young woman.”

One chief difference? Betsy Ray’s literary journey, while realistic in its candid details of early rejections and setbacks, is surprisingly positive. Betsy receives unfailing support from her family and friends; she experiences little thwarting or stifling by adult authority figures.

I knew the books were based on Lovelace’s own childhood at the turn of the last century in Mankato, Minnesota. So perhaps the consistent cheeriness of her self-portrait reflected mere autobiographical faithfulness. Kerlan materials – correspondence with childhood friends depicted in the books, abundant notes taken on the content of her high school diaries before she burned them, and drafts of an unpublished manuscript entitled Writing and Living – would help prove or disprove this hypothesis.

Or both.

I did find ample support of the many ways in which the events in the series, including those featuring Betsy as emerging writer, were faithful in almost every detail to Maud’s own life. But I also found evidence of her deliberate omission of painful memories. Most striking: on a visit to family friends, young Maud wrote a letter home containing an unsparing account of their children’s bad behavior – a letter which her host read before posting. This kind of hideous moment is so common in children’s books about young female writers – think Harriet the Spy – that I was fascinated to find that Maud/Betsy had a similar experience, but chose to suppress rather than share it.

But the real joy of archival research at the Kerlan lies in the incidental treasures discovered along the way. I clutched my chest when I beheld the original hilarious minutes of the Okto Delta “sorority” created by Betsy and her friends in Betsy Was a Junior, in young Maud’s own handwriting on her father’s “Office of County Treasurer, Blue Earth County” letterhead. I marveled at the letter sent by the Hayden Planetarium in reply to her husband’s query about what constellations Betsy would have seen as she sailed to Europe in Betsy and the Great World.

I found the most delicious treasures, however, when I peeked into the Kerlan’s holdings on another brilliant mid-century author, Elizabeth Enright. There I found an entire folder labeled BOYFRIENDS 1925-29. It contained not only a yellow Western Union telegram “WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A DATE WITH YOU WEDNESDAY NIGHT,” but an itemized list from a different suitor of all the reasons “why I want you for my own girl and not his.” These included “You’re amenable to reason,” “You don’t use too much makeup,” and “You’ve got brains and know that Tolstoy didn’t write the Bedtime Bunny Fables”!! There they were, safely filed away, to be stumbled upon by an amused and grateful children’s literature scholar almost a century later.

A letter from the Hayden Planetarium to Maud Hart Lovelace’s husband, Delos Lovelace, on the positions of constellations to be featured in Lovelace’s novel.
Recent Acquisitions

**William Armstrong:** Correspondence donated by Mary A. Armstrong

**Marina Budhos and Marc Aronson (new collection):** Drafts and production materials for titles both co-authored and independently created by Budhos and Aronson

**Blue Balliett (new collection):** Manuscript materials and books, including translated editions

**Bob Barner (new collection):** Original collage, purchased by the Kerlan Friends from the ABFE Auction

**Sophie Blackall:** Original watercolor, purchased by the Kerlan Friends from the ABFE Auction

**Betsy Bowen:** Sketches and development material for One North Star

**Nick Bruel (new collection):** Original anti-bullying painting, purchased by the Kerlan Friends from the ABFE Auction

**Mary Casanova:** Drafts and production materials for five titles

**Sylvia Cassedy (new collection):** Books, drafts, papers, and galleys for various works, donated by Ellen Cassedy

**H.M. Hoover:** Personal and fan correspondence

**Tomie dePaola:** Original ink and watercolor illustration, created for a 2017 calendar of Kerlan Collection materials

**Kate DiCamillo:** Original drafts and proofs for recent titles, including Raymie Nightingale

**Glen Dines:** Original dummies for The Useful Dragon of Sam Ling Toy, donated by Irene Brown

**Olivier Dunrea (new collection):** Original gouache illustrations for The Boy Who Loved to Draw and The Painter Who Loved Chickens

**Carolyn Haywood:** An original ink illustration from Taffy and Melissa Molasses, donated by Lorraine Stribling

**Mabel M. Farmer (new collection):** Material related to the creation of the story The Three Trolls, donated by Professor Edward Farmer

**Leonard Everett Fisher:** Original scratchboard illustrations for The World’s Most Truthful Man and Malachy’s Gold

**Ruth Stiles Gannett (new collection):** The original hand-written manuscript for My Father’s Dragon

**Ann Grifalconi (new collection):** Original illustrations and production materials from the artist’s career in children’s books

**Nikki Grimes:** Research and drafts for the title Chasing Freedom

**Esther Hautzig:** The personal and working papers from Hautzig’s life and career, donated by Deborah Hautzig

**Jennifer and Matthew Holm:** Original sketches and production material for Sunny Side Up, Babymouse titles, and others

**Chasing Freedom by Nikki Grimes**

**H.M. Hoover:** Personal and fan correspondence

**Emily Jenkins (E. Lockhart):** Editorial correspondence, jacket proofs, and clippings for several titles by Jenkins

**Kathleen Karr:** Papers and books from the writing career of Kathleen Karr

**Abrams/Jeff Kinney (new collection):** Correspondence, papers, and marketing material for Jeff Kinney titles, donated by Abrams Books

**Beth Krommes (new collection):** An original scratchboard of an unused illustration from Before Mornings, as well as studies, notes, and emails related to the title

**Susan Kuklin (new collection):** Original photos and dummies for four titles
Recent Acquisitions

**Gail Carson Levine:** Original drafts for three titles as well as fan correspondence

**Loretta Lustig (new collection):** Original artwork for titles illustrated by Lustig, donated by Jennifer J. Sewall

**Mary Read MacDonald:** Translated editions of titles, accompanied by publication histories and some typescripts

**David McPhail:** Original painting donated by Sarah McCarville

**Claudia Mills:** Drafts and signed copies of her most recent titles

**Donna Jo Napoli:** Drafts for the novel *Hunger*

**Jerry Pinkney:** An original watercolor illustration of the *Little Red Hen*, donated by Ellen Sugg

**Fiona Robinson (new collection):** Some studies and finished art, typescript, and proofs for *What Animals Really Like*, donated by Lisa Von Drasek

**Sara Schwebel (new collection):** Collation of typescripts of Scott O’Dell’s *Island of the Blue Dolphins*, created and used to create Schwebel’s annotated edition of the title

**Jon Scieszka:** Drafts, books, and papers for titles written by Scieszka during his career

**Joe Servello:** Typescript pages and five ink illustrations for the unpublished title *The House of the Magicians*

**Joyce Sidman:** Original drafts for *Winter Bees* and *Before Morning*

**Joseph Slate:** Various manuscripts for published and unpublished stories

**Louis and Florence Slobodkin:** Various sketches, drawings, books, and ephemera related to the work of Louis and Florence Slobodkin, donated by Tamara Slobodkin

**Gustaf Tenggren:** Original tempera illustrations from the title *Little Black Sambo*, donated by Ron Gardina

**Mary Hays Weik:** Material related to Weik’s anti-nuclear activism and personal papers, donated by Ann Grifalconi

**Weston Woods (new collection):** Original storyboards, cells, photographs, and records for films

**Rosemary Wells (new collection):** An original dummy for the title *Max & Ruby at the Warthogs’ Wedding*

**Jane Yolen:** Original drafts and production material for many titles

What’s Next?

Look for *Little Red Riding Hood: a Comparative Study* in 2018. This digital exhibit will serve to model a comparative fairytale and folklore study and can be adapted as a template for studying other tales such as wide-ranging as “Goldilocks and the Three Bears,” the Anansi tales, and other popular stories.

Little Red Riding Hood
*Cooper Edens, 1901*
We Remember

We mourn the loss of these children’s authors and illustrators who passed in 2016-2017

**Marilyn Sachs** (December 18, 1927-December 28, 2016)

Sachs was an award-winning author of books for children and young, especially known for her depiction of realistic fiction. She was born in New York, and attended Hunter College. She earned a Master’s in Library Science from Columbia University and worked as a librarian before she was able to devote herself full time to writing in the 1960s. In addition to her writing, Sachs was known for her work in activism, particularly in anti-war efforts.

**Paul Goble** (September 27, 1933-January 5, 2017)

Goble was a Caldecott-award winning writer and illustrator. He was born in England, where he studied at the Central School of Art and Design in London. His works primarily focused on Native American stories, and one of his best known works *The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses*, won the 1979 Caldecott Medal. He moved to South Dakota in the 1970s, where he resided and worked for the rest of his life.

**Michael Bond** (January 13, 1926-June 27, 2017)

Author Michael Bond, best known for his series of books featuring the Paddington Bear. The first Paddington tale (which was also Bond’s first children’s book), *A Bear Called Paddington*, was published in 1958. In addition to his Paddington stories, Bond wrote several other series, including Olga da Polga and Monsieur Pamplemousse. He was honored as a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 2015.

**Jan Slepian** (January 2, 1921-November 2, 2016)

Slepian was a children’s author, essayist, and poet. Some of her first children’s titles were published with co-author Ann G. Seidler. Slepian’s novel *The Alfred Summer* was a National Book Awards finalist. In her later years she focused on essays and poetry, and her collection of essays on aging, *Astonishment: Life in the Slow Lane*, was adapted for the stage in 2010.

**Geoffrey Hayes** (December 3, 1947-June 2, 2017)

Hayes was an award-winning author, illustrator, and cartoonist. He was born in California and educated at Hunter College, the Art Students League, and the School of Visual Arts. His first children’s book, *Bear by Himself*, was published in 1976. More recently Hayes published titles with Toon Books, including the Benny and Penny series. He was awarded the Theodor Seuss Geisel Award for *Benny and Penny in the Big No-No!*

**Rebecca Bond** (1972-August 2, 2017)

Bond was an author, illustrator, and designer who was known for titles such as *Out of the Woods: A True Story of an Unforgettable Event* and *Bravo, Maurice*! She was born in Vermont and studied at Brown University and the Rhode Island School of Design. Her first picture book, *Just Like a Baby*, was published in 1999. In addition to her children’s books, she worked as a designer at Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers.

**Yumi Heo** (1964-November 5, 2016)

Author and illustrator Yumi Heo was born in Korea and studied graphic design at Sang Ji University before moving to the United States to earn an MFA from the New York School of Visual Arts. Her first book was *The Rabbit’s Judgment*, published in 1994. Her works included *The Green Frogs: a Korean Folktale*, and *Henry’s First-Moon Birthday* (written by Lenore Look).
We Remember

**Peter Spier** (June 6, 1927-April 27, 2017)
Caldecott Award-winning illustrator and author Peter Spier was born in the Netherlands in 1927 and studied at the Royal Academy of Art in Amsteram. In the early 1950s he moved to the United States, where he became an successful author and illustrator. His work was recognizable for its bright and detailed ink-drawn illustrations. His most well-known title was Noah’s Ark, for which he was awarded the Caldecott Medal in 1978.

Rosenthal was a popular children’s writer and memoirist. She was born in 1965 in Chicago and studied at Tufts University in Massachusetts. She published for both children and adults, including picture books such as *Duck! Rabbit!* and memoirs about her life (*Encyclopedia of an Ordinary Life*). She completed several titles prior to her death, including a collaboration with her daughter.

**Jean Fritz** (November 16, 1915-May 14, 2017)
Prolific and award-winning non-fiction author Jean Fritz was born to missionaries and spent her childhood in China, before moving to the United States when she was 13. She wrote dozens of books, primarily centered around United States history and biographies. Her popular titles included *And Then What Happened, Paul Revere?* and *Shh! We’re Writing the Constitution*. Her memoir, *Homesick*, received a Newbery Honor, and she was awarded a Laura Ingalls Wilder Medal in 2003.

**Anna Dewdney** (December 25, 1965-September 3, 2016)
The beloved children’s book creator Anna Dewdney was born in Englewood, New Jersey and earned a degree in art from Wesleyan University. Her first children’s book was *The Peppermint Race*, written by Dian Curtis Regan. Her popular series of Llama Llama books first appeared in 2005 with the publication of *Llama Llama Red Pajama*. The titles have sold millions of copies and even inspired an upcoming Netflix series.

**Natalie Babbitt** (July 28, 1932-October 31, 2016)
Award-winning author and artist Natalie Babbitt was born in Dayton, Ohio and studied art at Smith College. Her first children’s book was *The Forty-ninth Magician*, written by her husband Samuel Babbitt and illustrated by Natalie. Afterwards she turned to writing, and her novels, including *Kneeknock Rise* (a Newbery Honor book) and *Tuck Everlasting* have received awards and acclaim. Tuck Everlasting, an examination of the death and immortality, has become a classic of modern children’s literature.

McElmurry was an author and illustrator best known for books such as *Mad About Plaid* and the Little Blue Truck series, which she created with Alice Schertle. McElmurry was born in Los Angeles, California, and raised in New Mexico. She studied at the State University of New York at Purchase (SUNY Purchase) and the School of Visual Arts in New York. She worked as an editorial illustrator before publishing her first picture book in 2000 and beginning a successful children’s book illustration career.

**Brian Wildsmith** (January 22, 1930-August 31, 2016)
Wildsmith was a British author and illustrator known for his vibrant painted illustrations. He was born in England and trained at the Barnsley School of Art and the Slade School of Fine Art. His works included *The Owl and the Woodpecker*, *Brian Wildsmith’s Animal Gallery*, *The Little Wood Duck*, and *Brian Wildsmith’s ABCs*, which was his first picture book and was awarded the Kate Greenaway Medal (the United Kingdom equivalent of the Caldecott Award). He has been recognized internationally and the Brian Wildsmith Museum of Art opened in Japan in 1994.
Telling Stories From the Inside Out

Thanhha Lai was born in Vietnam and presently lives north of New York City. She is the author of *Inside Out & Back Again*, which won a National Book Award and a Newbery Honor, and *Listen, Slowly*, a New York Times bestseller.

Visiting author will give a free lecture, answer questions, and sign copies of her books available for purchase.

For more information visit: z.umn.edu/bookweek2017

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New materials in the Kerlan Collection

 Invocation for Snow in Large Quantities

From the deep woolen night
let a prick,
then a tickle
fill still skies with flight.

As sweetly we slumber,
et clouds turn to feathers
and steel turn to sugar
and all that is heavy
turn light.

Let quick things be swaddled;  
let the tense and important and grave
lose their flight.

Come cover us wholly, completely
in smothering blankets,
anchored with soft stones of light.

Please, please, please,
just this once
before morning,
make the world slow and delightful and white.

An early draft of *Before Morning*, by Joyce Sidman, along with a scratchboard study for an illustration by Beth Krommes. The scratchboard study is featured in the Techniques and Media digital exhibit.
**Become a Kerlan Friend Today! (Or renew your present membership)**

The Kerlan Friends’ membership fees and donations fund the work of the Children’s Literature Research Collections. From buying original art at auction and supporting online exhibits, to bringing national events like the May Hill Arbuthnot Lecture and providing the resources for the Kerlan Award, we couldn’t do it without you.

In addition to money, Kerlan Friends donate time. If you wish to volunteer in the Kerlan Collection, we have work for you. Just email asc-clrc@umn.edu and we can find a project that matches your skills and interest.

There are four levels of membership:
- Student (full-time) $10
- Kerlan Friend $25
- Kerlan Collector $100
- Special Patron $1,000

Consider buying a gift membership for someone else.

If you would like to become a Friend, donate online at: z.umn.edu/kerlanfriends.

**Display at the Minneapolis Children’s Theatre Company for A Year with Frog and Toad**

Special thanks to volunteers Mary Schultz, Ellen Sugg, and Payal Doshi
Original gouache illustration from *All Fall Down* by LeUyen Pham