

Collection of the Works of Picture Book Illustrators from The World

Today, many people have come to support the principles of the Chihiro Art Museum: to treat Picture Book illustrations as elements of our cultural heritage, and to strive to pass this heritage on to posterity. Our collection of some 26,000 pieces has grown based on these fundamental principles. Our collection contains a large number of works by such artists as Suekichi Akaba, Shinta Cho, and Takeshi Motai,

rendering the collection indispensable to those studying these artists. While continuing to collect, preserve, and exhibit picture books and related items, the Chihiro Art Museum will strive to advance research on picture books from both Japan and overseas, as we continue to contribute to the development of Picture Book culture.



Suekichi Akaba

After the death of my father, Suekichi Akaba, I preserved his original paintings, drawings, and sketches, following the advice of Takeshi Matsumoto and other staff members of the Chihiro Art Museum. In doing so, I was deeply moved to learn how acutely aware the museum staff was of the importance of preserving and protecting these artworks. I am happy to have been able to donate all of my father's works to this museum. They have been actively collecting originals of the world's great picture books and striving to help people appreciate the beauty of those works through a variety of original ways. I am confident that their enthusiasm will touch the hearts of many. I sincerely hope that the Chihiro Art Museum will make great strides as a major provider of these sorts of cultural activities. (Kenzo Akaba)



Suekichi Akaba: "Suho's White Horse" cover, 1967



Takeshi Motai: from "Gauche the Cellist," 1956

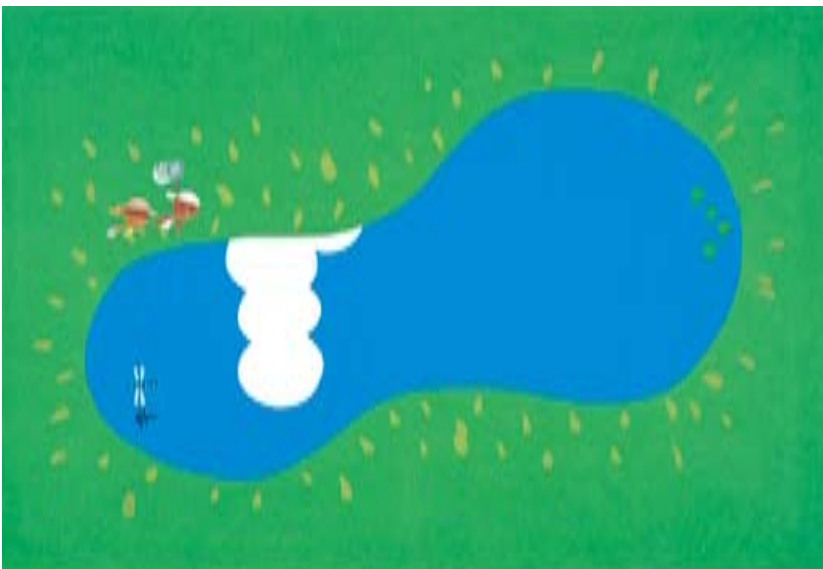


Kayako Nishimaki

Congratulations on the 30th anniversary of the Chihiro Art Museum. It is only in recent years that pictures in picture books and children's book illustrations have come to be accepted as artwork. I am grateful to the museum for playing a major role in bringing about this change. The first job of the Picture Book authors/illustrator is to be accepted by children, but it is also important for the authors/illustrators to be accepted by society as a whole. In my 40 years of making picture books, I have always hoped to see this widespread acceptance come to pass.



Kayako Nishimaki: from "My Miracle Dress," 1969



Yasunari Murakami: from "Summer Pond," 2002



Shinta Cho: "Rubber-Head Pontaro" cover, 1998



Yasuo Segawa: from "Peek-a-Boo," 1967



Bolormaa Baasansuren (Mongolia): from "My house is a Ger," 2004



Kaarina Kaila (Finland): from "Thumbelina," 1988



Eric Carle

Hooray on the 30th anniversary of Chihiro Art Museum Tokyo and the 10th anniversary of Chihiro Art Museum Azumino!

My wife Barbara and I have been admirers of Chihiro's art work and beautiful museums for many years. In fact, the Chihiro Art Museums and our visits to Japan inspired us to co-found the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art!

We congratulate you and wish for many more wonderful years inspiring generations of visitors to share and enjoy the beautiful art of the picture book.



Květa Pacovská

You have my Best Wishes for 30th anniversary of the Chihiro Art Museum Tokyo and 10th anniversary of Chihiro Art Museum Azumino.

I am very honored have my graphic art work in collection of this museums and very honored have my stone sculptures and two ponds one red and one black in the part of Chihiro Art Museum Azumino garden. I wish your collection grow up and develop in the gorgeous way of Harmony and Beauty.



Eric Carle (USA): An image from "The Very Hungry Caterpillar," 1999



Květa Pacovská (Czech Republic): "The Cat," 1979-85



Gerald McDermott (USA): "Arrow to the Sun," 1974



Binette Schroeder (Germany): "Crocodylle, crocodylle" cover, 1975



John Burningham

What a lot of pleasure the Chihiro Art Museum has given people over the last thirty years. It is a great honour to have some of my work in this gallery. I wish it every success for the next thirty years and beyond.

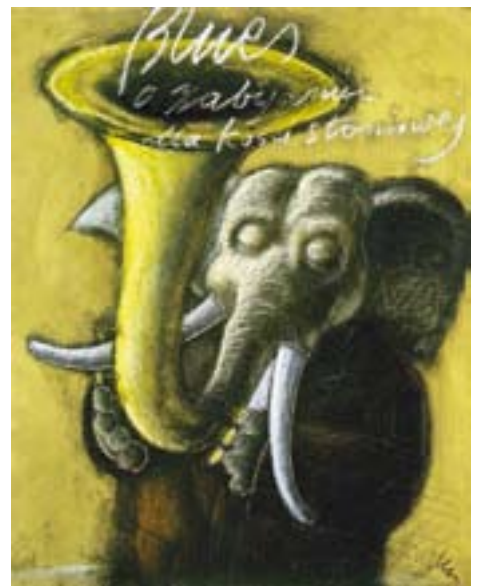


Józef Wilkoń

Congratulations on the 30th anniversary of the Chihiro Art Museum. I believe that Chihiro, if she were to look down from heaven, would be pleased to see what a great success the museum has turned out to be.



John Burningham (United Kingdom): from "Trubloff," 1964



Józef Wilkoń (Poland): "Blues: Elephant Player," 1994



Feeroozeh Golmohammadi

It was few years ago when I met Mr. Matsumoto at Contemporary Museum in Tehran and later in Bratislava. There, I learned that he was initiating a museum to exhibit the works of the world outstanding illustrators. I gratefully offered my share by offering one of my works for the museum.



Feeroozeh Golmohammadi (Iran): An image from "The Elephant in a Dark Room," 2000

I'm pleased to know the museum has been established and achieved great success.

Here I would like to congratulate Mr. Matsumoto and his colleagues for providing a historical home for the children's book illustrators of the world. Many thanks to him on behalf of Iranian illustrators.



Wu Jianhua



Wu Jianhua (China): from "Two Archers," 1994

In May, 2002, we visited the Chihiro Art Museum Azumino. An endless blue sky, snow-capped mountains, fields and mountains graced with wildflowers far and wide, and limpid streams — we left with the most wonderful memories. We were so excited to view the diverse and distinctive original works created by Picture Book artists from around the world at this unique, thoughtfully designed museum. With a discerning eye, Takeshi Matsumoto and his museum staff are collecting, preserving, and exhibiting original works of picture books of outstanding quality from around the world. The charm of the original artwork is introduced in a most pleasing way. I was truly moved by the noble efforts and attention to detail of the staff of the Chihiro Art Museum. Every day for the past 30 years, they have been working hard to prove that the original works of picture books truly deserve to be called art. I sincerely respect their commitment and congratulate them on the 30th anniversary of the opening of the museum.

(武建華 / 張維彩)



Seif Eddeen L'owta (Sudan): from "Games," 1984



Claudia Legnazzi (Argentina): from "Yo tengo una casa" (My House), 2001



Sybil Wettasinghe (Sri Lanka): "The Umbrella Thief," 1986



Evgenii Rachev (Russia): from "The Mitten," 1950



Nikolai Popov (Russia): from "The Fables of Krylov," 1989



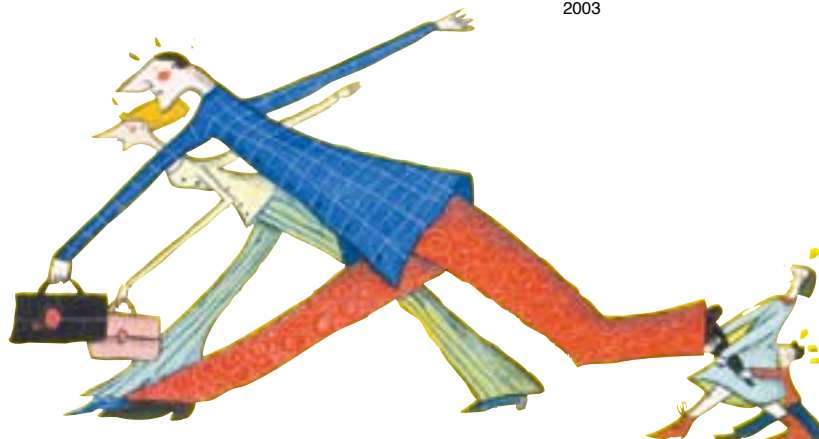
Dušan Kállay (Slovakia): from "The Magic Pot and the Magic Ball," 1989



Park Chul-Meen (South Korea): from "Second Cousin," 2003



Can Göknil (Turkey): "Amulet against Sickness and Disease," 1997



Chiara Rapaccini (Italy): "Ehi, Ci Siamo Anche Noi!" (Hey, Look at Us!), 1999

Historical materials about picture books and illustrations

At present, the Chihiro Art Museum houses some 1,000 historical materials related to picture books and illustrations. The oldest document is a fragment from the “*Book of the Dead*,” which was written on papyrus in pre-Christian Egypt. Other documents included are, chronologically, leaves from the *Book of Hours* in medieval Europe, incunabula (printed material during the earliest days of Gutenberg’s times), Japanese picture scrolls and picture books from the Edo period (1603-1867), and picture magazines of modern-day Japan, such as “*Kodomo no Kuni*” (*Children’s Land*) and “*Kodomo no Tomo*” (*Children’s Friend*). As you trace the history of Japanese illustrations and those of other countries through these materials, you will see the depth and scope of the roots of picture books.



Fragment of papyrus, date and excavation site unknown
This fragment is considered to be an illustration of Chapter 162 of the “*Book of the Dead*.” Behind the altar is a cow (offering food) wearing a sun disk and double plumes on its head.



“*Tawara Toda*” picture scroll, early Edo period (1603-1867)

This is one of the picture scrolls known as *Otogi Zoshi* (Companion Stories), which were produced in great numbers from the late Muromachi period (1336-1573). This story, featuring Tawara Tota, a strong samurai warrior who slew a monstrous centipede, is categorized as both *bukemono* (a samurai tale) and *iruimono* (a tale where animals are used to parody the human world).



Nara-ehon (Nara picture book) entitled “*Taishokkan*” (“*The Great Crown*,” a story of Fujiwara no Kamatari), early Edo period (1603-1867)

The story is based on “*Taishokkan*” for *Kowaka-mai* (a chanted narrative accompanied by dance and music).

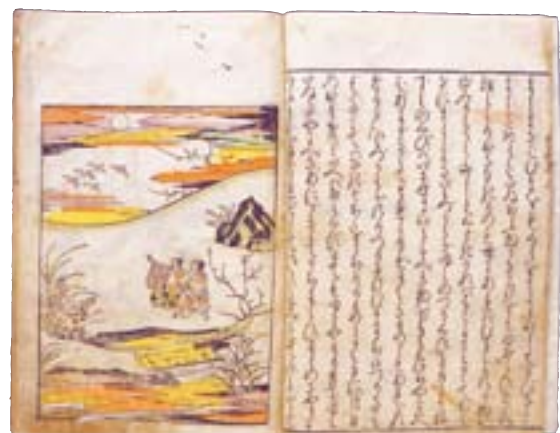
This gorgeous book, in vertical format, features a book cover with gold writing on dark blue paper.



Book of Hours, France, 15th century



“*Aesop’s Fables*” incunabula, a reprint of Caxton’s 1484 edition



“*Soga Monogatari*” (*The Tale of The Soga*) *tanrokubon* (literally, “a red and green book,” with hand-colored woodblock pictures), 1646



"Jiraiya Goketsu Monogatari" (*The Tale of the Gallant Jiraiya*) gokan (multiple volumes)
Written by Mizugaki Egao and others/Illustrated by Utagawa Kunisada and others,
1839-68



Mame-ehon (Miniature Picture Books), late Edo period to early Meiji period (19th and early 20th centuries)



"Orbis Pictus" (*World In Pictures*), Czech edition,
1833

The Czech edition is written in five languages: Latin, German, Czech, Polish, and French.



Battledore, ca. end of the 18th century



"Lions' Costume Ball" chapbook, 1808



"A Book of Old Songs," illustrated by Walter Crane, 1833



"Kodomo no Kuni" (Children's Land) picture magazine,
book cover illustrated by Takeo Takei, 1928

This picture magazine, founded in the Taisho era (1912-26), provided Picture Book artists with an opportunity to demonstrate their abilities.