

november 2011 - february 2012

portfolio

NORMAN ROCKWELL MUSEUM



Curious George Saves the Day

The Art of Margret & H. A. Rey

On view November 12, 2011 through February 5, 2012

Join us in our galleries for a new exhibition tracing the dramatic story of escape and survival through almost eighty original artworks that have become classics of children's literature. Curious George, the beloved irrepressible monkey of w and television fame is famous for his ability to "save the day." Interpreting the role he played in safeguarding his creators in times of danger as symbolic, this exhibition recounts how this popular character came to be, and explores the lives and works of Margret and H. A. Rey, who fled Paris in 1940 with an original Curious George manuscript in their suitcase.

Curious George and friends may never have seen the light of day were it not for the determination and courage of their creators, illustrator H. A. Rey (1898–1977) and his wife, author and artist Margret Rey (1906–1996). Born in Hamburg, Germany to Jewish families, an extended honeymoon took the couple to Paris, where they lived and worked from 1936 to 1940. Just hours before the Nazis marched into the city in June 1940, the Reys fled on bicycles carrying drawings for their children's stories, including one about a mischievous monkey then named Fifi. During a tense inspection of their belongings by a border official, their children's illustrations were found, and the couple was allowed to continue on their way. It is perhaps no surprise that saving the day after a narrow escape from trouble emerged as central theme in their art. [continued from page 1](#)



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

The holiday season is a time for thanks and giving—a time for family gathering and reflection. What better place is there to create lasting memories and ponder what is meaningful in your own life, than at Norman Rockwell Museum? We love company and this holiday season we have some wonderful art experiences in store for you.

In this issue you'll learn all about our exciting new fall exhibitions, including *Curious George Saves the Day: The Art of Margret and H. A. Rey*. Our galleries will offer not only great art, but also important historical stories. Together with *Norman Rockwell and the Ghost of Dickens* and *Pop-Up! The Magical World of Movable Books*, we will share varied examples of great visual storytelling for all to enjoy.

Before or after your visit, check out the Museum's website: www.nrm.org. Here you can browse our vast collection, including 800 images by illustrator William Steig, generously gifted to the Museum by the artist's widow, Jeanne Steig. A collection of rare, limited edition lithographs of Steig's work is now available through our Museum store, which is filled with wonderful gift ideas for the holidays. Members receive a bonus holiday discount this year, and remember that all purchases help support the Museum. Shop online at <http://store.nrm.org>.

You will also find the Museum's 2010-2011 annual report newly published online, detailing the amazing activities that took place at the Museum this past fiscal year. From the 130,000 visitors who came to Stockbridge to experience the art



of Norman Rockwell, William Steig, Jerry Pinkney, Elwood Smith, Blue Sky Studios and others, to the more than 500,000 visitors who enjoyed our Rockwell and illustration exhibitions at 12 museums across the country, and a historic appearance in President Obama's White House—

Norman Rockwell Museum is spreading the joy of illustration art far beyond our gallery walls.

I hope that you will respond generously to the Museum's annual appeal, and help continue to make it possible to share our life-enriching collections. Income from memberships and admissions support only a fraction of the cost of sustaining our Museum—taking care of a growing art collection, providing world-wide access to over 40,000 images and objects, and maintaining our beautiful Stockbridge campus requires additional resources beyond our daily earned revenues. **When you consider your holiday and year-end giving, please think about supporting your Museum, and sharing Norman Rockwell's art with new generations. We count on you, and could not reach the audience we do without your generosity.** You can make your gift online at www.nrm.org/support.

Sending you warm holiday wishes, with deepest gratitude for your ongoing friendship.

Laurie Norton Moffatt
Director/CEO

is the sponsor list correct

Norman Rockwell Museum gratefully acknowledges the generous support from the following:



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PAGE 1: TOP TO BOTTOM: *Going and Coming* (detail), Norman Rockwell, 1947, Norman Rockwell Museum Collections. ©1947 SEPS: Curtis Publishing, Indianapolis, IN. Concept painting for *Rio* (detail). ©2011 Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation. All Rights Reserved. *The Veterinarian*, Norman Rockwell, 1961. Collection of Pfizer Inc. ©NREL: Niles, IL. Norman Rockwell working on *First Trip to the Beauty Parlor* with dog Pitter in his Stockbridge studio, 1972. Photo by Bill Scovill. Norman Rockwell Museum. Collections. ©NREL: Niles, IL.

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PAGE 6: Dog sketch (detail) by Norman Rockwell. Norman Rockwell Museum Collections. ©NREL: Niles, IL.

still need credits

Norman Rockwell and the Ghost of Dickens

on view November 19, 2011 through March 4, 2012

by Joyce K. Schiller, Ph.D, Curator, Rockwell Center for American Visual Studies

In Norman Rockwell's autobiography, *My Adventures as an Illustrator*, he describes important memories from his youth that were seminal to his later work as an illustrator. Of particular importance were Rockwell's recollections focused on his father reading Charles Dickens stories aloud to his sons in the evening after they finished their homework.

"On weekday evenings, after Jarvis and I had finished our homework, we would sit around the dining-room table and my father would read Dickens out loud to us. I would, as I've said, draw pictures of the different characters—Mr. Pickwick, Oliver Twist, Uriah Heep. They were pretty crude pictures, but I was very deeply impressed and moved by Dickens."

Throughout his life, Rockwell would cite the significance of those nightly readings and the influence of Dickens on his art. Not only did the writer's characters provide a lexicon of human experience and personality types for Rockwell to explore and visually recreate, they also informed his illustration characterization of certain Christmas characters throughout his career.

It is therefore fitting that this visual exploration of *Norman Rockwell and The Ghost of Dickens* happens during the winter of 2011/2012, as we anticipate the approach of the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Dickens' birth in early February 2012. ■



Norman Rockwell (1894–1978), *Merrie Christmas*, 1929. Oil on canvas. Cover illustration for *The Saturday Evening Post*, December 7, 1929. Norman Rockwell Museum Collections, gift of the family of John W. Hanes, 2000. NRM.2000.03 ©NRELC: Niles, IL

Pop-Up! The Magical World of Movable Books

on view November 12, 2011 through April 22, 2012



Norman Rockwell Museum, Interior pages of *Dinosaurs: encyclopedia prehistorica*, by Robert Sabuda, Matthew Reinhart. Candlewick Press © 2005, all rights reserved.

to spooky stories and formula one race cars, there is truly something for everyone. After exploring the exhibition, we hope that you'll enjoy time in our Undersea Reading Room, and join us for a variety of fun-filled programs that explore how these amazing movable books are actually made. ■

In a burst of color that transports readers beyond the printed page, *Pop-Up! The Magical World of Movable Books* explores the history and wonder of pop-up books from whimsy and fantasy to the wonders of art, history, and science. Drawn from the personal collection of Bernard S. Shapiro and lovingly compiled, the books on view have been a source of joy to his family through the years. We are honored to share them in our galleries with the young and the young at heart, with appreciation to Barbara Stern Shapiro and her children John and Susan, and to art historian Wendy Kaplan, a close family friend who assisted in organizing this exhibition.

An exciting array of published works are featured, including books by the 19th century Munich-based illustrator Lothar Meggendorfer, multi-media artist Red Grooms, beloved cartoonist Charles Schulz, children's book author Maurice Sendak, science fiction filmmaker George Lucas, and pop-up masters Robert Sabuda and Matthew Reinhart, among many others. From high fashion and Faberge Eggs

Curious George Saves the Day
continued from page 1

After their fateful flight from Paris and a four-month journey across France, Spain, Portugal, and Brazil, the couple finally arrived in New York in the fall of 1940. In the years that followed, the Reys authored and illustrated over thirty books, with seven starring Curious George. More than seventy years since Curious George's arrival in America, his antics have been translated into over a dozen languages, including Hebrew, Yiddish, Chinese, Portuguese, and Afrikaans, for the pleasure of readers throughout the world.

Curated by the Jewish Museum in New York with collections from the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection, McCain Library and Archives, The University of Southern Mississippi, this exhibition offers the rare opportunity to view original drawings and watercolors that are among the most cherished of their kind. Preparatory book dummies, vintage photographs, an interactive timeline, and personal journals and documentation that tell the story of the Reys' escape from Nazi Europe are featured. Larger-than-life scenic elements and an "underwater" reading room inspired by imagery in *Curious George Flies a Kite*, is sure to entice visitors of all ages to revisit favorite tales, or discover them for the first time. Other exhibition highlights include early drawings and paintings for *Raffy and the 9 Monkeys*, in which Curious George makes his debut as Fifi; *Fifi: The Adventures of a Monkey*, later published as *Curious George*; and *Whiteblack the Penguin Sees the World*. Many engaging, informative programs accompany the exhibition, and we hope that you'll join us again and again to learn more about the Rey's artistry and experiences. ■

This exhibition is supported through a bequest from the Estate of Lore Ross. Additional support was provided in part by Barrington Foundation, Inc and with media partners: WGBY, Springfield.

OPENING EVENTS

Curious George Saves the Day The Art of Margret & H. A. Rey

Pop-Up!

The Magical World of Movable Books

Friday, November 11, 4 p.m.

EXHIBITION PREVIEW FOR EDUCATORS AND LIBRARIANS

Step into the world of Margret and H. A. Rey, creators of the beloved *Curious George* children's book series, during this special after-school immersion in the original art and historical materials on view. This exhibition preview will include tours, treats, gifts, and conversation about creative ways to bring everyone's favorite monkey into the classroom. Free.

Saturday, November 12

Explore the art of Curious George, the beloved, irrepressible monkey of children's book lore, and celebrate the history and wonder of pop-up books in two special exhibitions.

1 - 4 p.m. Family Opening!

Meet Curious George and explore the art of the movable book, with dramatic readings, exhibition tours, art activities, and refreshments. Free for members, or with Museum admission.



Opening Reception and Program

Barbara Stern Shapiro will share the story behind her late husband Bernard Shapiro's extensive pop-up book collection, lovingly compiled through the years. *Wendy Kaplan* will offer an introduction.

Claudia Nahson, curator, The Jewish Museum, will discuss the remarkable lives and works of Margret and H. A. Rey, who in 1940 fled Paris with a *Curious George* manuscript in their suitcase.

Refreshments and a cash bar will precede the 6:30 p.m. presentation. Free for members, or \$15 for non-members



SCHOOL VACATION WEEKS

Just Curious! Drop-in Art for the Whole Family

Monday - Saturday, December 26 - 31
1 - 5 p.m.

Step into the world of children's books during these inspiring art workshops that explore the Museum's family-friendly *Curious George* and *Pop-Up!* exhibitions. Take one or take them all! Free with Museum admission, members free.

POP! Creating Art in 3D

Monday - Friday, February 20 - 24,
1 - 4 p.m.

Explore and think outside the page... unfold the magic of pop-up art! Design your own 3D creations inspired by the *Pop-Up!* exhibition on view. Ages 7 and up. Take one or take them all! \$20, \$15 members per day.

ART FOR PRESCHOOLERS

Kids Create!

Wednesdays, November 30, December 28, January 25, February 29, March 28, and April 25, 10:30 a.m.

Explore our galleries with Chief Educator **Melinda Georgeson** for an exciting interactive look at the world of art



especially for young art lovers, ages two to five, and their caregivers. Children \$2, members and grown-ups free!

POP-UP FESTIVAL

Pop-Up Books and Cards: The Art of Paper Engineering

Saturday, November 26, 1 - 4 p.m.

Discover the art of paper engineering during this fun-filled afternoon of workshops, tours, and talks exploring the world of mechanical books and cards. Design your own holiday gifts to share! Free with Museum admission, members free.

HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Cabaret for Christmas

Saturday, December 3, 4 - 6 p.m.



Enjoy an afternoon of holiday music, art, and heartwarming treats! At 4 p.m., Curator of Education **Tom Daly** will explore the holiday spirit in Norman Rockwell's art, and at 4:30 p.m., the

Sheri Buxton Trio will perform seasonal favorites. Sample Norman Rockwell's favorite cookie recipe with hot chocolate, and make a holiday pop-up card. Free with Museum admission, members free.

SANTA'S WORKSHOP ON STOCKBRIDGE MAIN STREET

Creative Christmas Stockings

Sunday December 4, 12 - 2 p.m.

Join Museum Staff for fun, hands-on crafts at the St. Paul's Church Children's Center during Stockbridge's Annual Main Street at Christmas, a village-wide celebration of the season! Tickets to the event can be purchased from the Stockbridge Chamber of Commerce.

SPECIAL NEW YEAR'S OFFER

Yellow Hat Week!

Monday - Friday, January 2 - 6

Ring in the New Year and bond with Curious George's Man with the Yellow Hat, by wearing a yellow hat to the Museum to receive \$2 off admission!



EXHIBITION OPENING EVENT

26th Annual Berkshire County High School Art Show

Saturday, February 4, 1 - 4 p.m.
Opening Commentary at 2 p.m.

Meet the region's talented young artists at the opening of this inspiring installation featuring original works in all media. Multi-media artist **Ricky Bernstein** will offer remarks at 2 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Sponsored by Berkshire Bank.



for adults

TEA AND TALK

How We See: Cataracts and Their Effect on Artists and Their Work

Saturday, November 5, 2:30 p.m.

Join **Dr. Diane E. Singer** for a fascinating look at how cataracts and changing eyesight has impacted the work of many renowned artists, from Claude Monet to Norman Rockwell. Dr. Singer is an ophthalmologist at Fairview Hospital and Berkshire Medical Center. Free with Museum admission, members free.

PBS SPECIAL SCREENING

A Thanksgiving Celebration with Carole Murko and Heirloom Meals

Friday, November 18, 6 - 8 p.m.

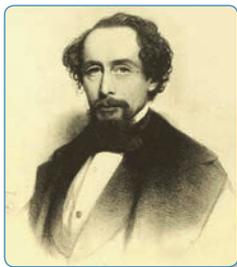
Join radio and television host/producer **Carole Murko** of Heirloom Meals for a private screening of her upcoming PBS special celebrating the culinary traditions of Thanksgiving. Her program features Norman Rockwell's iconic *Freedom from Want*, exploring its cultural significance then and now. Heirloom Meals offers a multi-media journey into the kitchens and gardens of anyone who has a treasured family recipe with the goal of exploring our diverse culinary history and preserving our ancestors' tried and true recipes and dining traditions. Free!

TEA AND PERFORMANCE

Norman Rockwell and the Ghost of Dickens

Saturday, November 19, 2:30 p.m.

Celebrate the 200th anniversary of Charles Dickens' birth with a traditional English tea and dramatic readings of the author's classic works. Original Rockwell art inspired by the literary giant's



books, will be on view. Free with Museum admission, members free.

GALLERY TALKS

Meet Rockwell's Models

Fridays, November 4, December 2, January 6, and February 3, 2:30 p.m.

Find out what it was like to pose for America's favorite illustrator from Rockwell's own models, who share their personal experiences. Free with museum admission, members free.

CURATORIAL CONVERSATIONS

Norman Rockwell: Humorous Tales and Little Known Facts

Fridays, November 11, December 9, January 13, February 10, and March 9, 2:30 p.m.

Celebrate Norman Rockwell's unique brand of humor during this engaging, enlightening series exploring the artist's adventures in illustration, with Curator of Education **Tom Daly**. Free with Museum admission, members free.

AFTERNOON FOR EDUCATORS AND LIBRARIANS

The Journey that Saved Curious George

Friday, January 13, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.



Trace the personal and artistic journey of Curious George creators Margret and H. A. Rey with **Louise Borden**, author of *The Journey that Saved Curious George*, documenting the Rey's 1940 wartime escape from Paris. Tours, classroom materials, and refreshments will be included. Remarks at 4 p.m. Free.

THE PRIVATE LIVES OF ARTISTS

Curious George Saves the Day! The Story of Margret and H. A. Rey

Saturday, January 14, 1 p.m.

Discover the remarkable true story of Margret and H. A. Rey, creators of the beloved monkey Curious George with historian/author **Louise Borden**. In 1940, the couple fled Paris with a *Curious George* manuscript in their suitcase which may have saved their lives. Free with Museum admission, members free.

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY EVENT

Norman Rockwell's Civil Rights Paintings

Monday, January 16, 12 p.m.



Explore Norman Rockwell's powerful visual commentary on the subject of civil rights in our nation through iconic works that continue to resonate, with Curator of Education **Tom Daly**. Free with Museum admission, members free.

ART WORKSHOP

Page Turners: Creating Hand-Made Art Books

January 21, 1 - 4 p.m.



Explore the process of creating unique hand-made books—exciting works of art that can make a personal statement. Head educator **Melinda Georgeson** will inspire you to design, assemble, and bind your own art books built from fine papers, fabrics, and a variety of art media. \$15, \$12 members.

ART WORKSHOP

Watercolor Whimsy

Saturday, January 28, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Paint whimsical watercolors inspired by the art, props, and costumes portrayed in our special exhibition, *Curious George Saves the Day!* with accomplished artist **Deborah Hanson Greene**. Unique hats, costumes, stuffed treasures, and memorabilia will provide a rich sampling of colors and textures. The artist's work has been exhibited regionally and beyond. \$20, \$15 members.

for adults



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Four Freedoms Forums:
A Series of Town Hall Meetings at Norman Rockwell Museum

Thursdays, January 26, February 23, March 29, and April 26, 5:30 p.m.

Join us to share your thoughts on the most compelling issues of our day. This series of Town Hall conversations inspired by Norman Rockwell's *Four Freedoms* paintings will explore aspects of our democracy in a rapidly changing and increasingly global world. Noted commentators will offer observations and inspire community discourse, with a reception to follow. Free.



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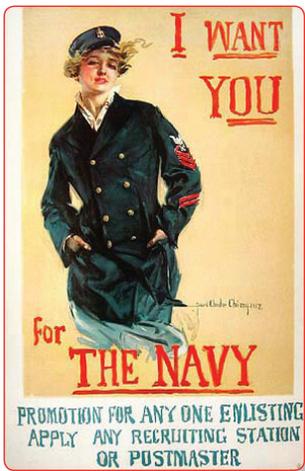
SUNDAY NOSH SERIES

American Icons:
Adventures in Illustration

Sundays, February 19, March 18, and April 22
11 a.m.

Join **Joyce K. Schiller, Ph.D.**, Curator of the Rockwell Center for American Visual Studies, for a fascinating look at the power of published art, and the seminal images that have guided or influenced world events and public opinion beyond their probable reach. A delicious continental brunch will be served. \$20, \$15 members.

I Want You For the Navy, © 1917. Howard Chandler Christy. Lithograph recruitment poster. Norman Rockwell Museum Collection, gift of Mr. Edward C. Bloom.




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Save the Date

APRIL SCHOOL
VACATION WEEK
WORKSHOPS

Hold that Pose!
Portraiture for
Children

April 16 - 20
1 - 4 p.m.

EXHIBITION
OPENING EVENT

Everett Raymond
Kinstler:
Illustrations and
Portraits

March 10
6 - 8:30 p.m.
with commentary
at 6:30 p.m.

ADULT ART
WORKSHOP

The Art of
Portraiture with
Everett Raymond
Kinstler

April 14
1 - 4 p.m.

OPEN AIR MARKET

Springtime in
Stockbridge

May 19
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

NORMAN ROCKWELL MUSEUM

exhibitions 2011/2012



Homecoming (Home from Camp), Norman Rockwell, 1961. Norman Rockwell Museum Collections. ©NRELC: Niles, IL.

Norman Rockwell's 323 Saturday Evening Post Covers

currently on view

Take a trip back in time through this comprehensive exhibition of original *Saturday Evening Post* tear sheets, featuring every one of Norman Rockwell's cover illustrations for the publication, created over the course of 47 years from 1916 to 1963.

It's a Dog's Life: Norman Rockwell Paints Man's Best Friend

on view through November 11

Learn about Rockwell's love of dogs through original artworks, photographs, and archival materials.

Curious George Saves the Day: The Art of Margret and H. A. Rey

November 12 through February 5

America's favorite monkey, the irrepressible Curious George, is always in trouble! In a great turn of fate, he helped his creators get out of life-threatening danger. Nearly 80 original drawings for Margret and H. A. Rey's children's books and documentation related to their escape from Nazi-occupied Europe will be on view. The exhibition is organized by The Jewish Museum, New York City, and drawn from the H. A. & Margret Rey Papers, de Grummond Children's Literature Collection, McCain Library and Archives, The University of Southern Mississippi.

Pop-Up!

The Magical World of Movable Books

November 12 through April 22

The history and wonder of pop-up books will be brought to life in this special exhibition featuring Barbara and Bernard Shapiro's extensive collection of movable literature. The exhibition will feature published books covering diverse genres, from whimsy and fantasy to the worlds of art, history and science. Selected book illustrations will also be on view.

Norman Rockwell and the Ghost of Dickens

November 19 through March 4

This celebration of the 200th anniversary of Charles Dickens' birth will feature original Rockwell artworks inspired by the literary giant's contributions, which were among the artist's favorite books.

26th Annual Berkshire County High School Art Show

February 5 through March 6

A diverse and inspiring exhibition of original works by Berkshire County's talented high school art students.

Read and see more at nrm.org

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