



ELOISE AND MORE: THE LIFE AND ART OF HILARY KNIGHT

NORMAN ROCKWELL MUSEUM TRAVELING EXHIBITION FACT SHEET

Best known for his iconic illustrations of Eloise in the books by Kay Thompson, Hilary Knight has been creating art for seven decades. Influenced by his artistic parents, Clayton Knight and Katharine Sturges, Knight's first drawings were featured in 1952 in magazines such as *Gourmet* and *Mademoiselle*. Two years later, he was introduced to actress and singer Kay Thompson. Over the next few years, they collaborated on four books featuring Eloise, the six-year-old girl who lives in the Plaza Hotel.

This exhibition, featuring original art, manuscripts, sketches, photographs, music, videos, and more, pays homage to the sprightly six-year-old. Much of the work has rarely been seen, including trial Eloise drawings from Hilary Knight in 1954, previously unpublished drawings from *Eloise in Paris*, and a recreation of the once-stolen Eloise portrait from the Plaza Hotel. The exhibition also explores the lives of both Kay Thompson and Hilary Knight and the life that Eloise took on after publication—in clothes, merchandising, and even Eloise-themed children's menus from the Plaza. The exhibition also includes original illustrations from many other picture books by the artist.

Knight has enjoyed a successful career illustrating in a variety of fields. Featured in the exhibition are Knight's early advertising assignments; magazine illustrations; concept art and posters for Broadway musicals; painted fashion designs; personal photographs; sketches, and final work for several books he illustrated and some that he wrote. Following Kay Thompson's death in 1998, Knight drew and painted five more books featuring Eloise, selections from which are included. Well into his ninth decade, Knight continues to produce stunning works for future

projects, including *Drawn from Life*, an illustrated memoir. *Eloise and More* is the most comprehensive exhibition on the life and art of one of the most published and beloved illustrators of the last seventy years.

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- 200 original artworks for children's books, magazines, advertisements, Broadway posters, and fashion designs
- Studies, book dummies, and manuscripts
- Personal and publicity photographs
- Exhibition text panels and labels

High Security: All works must be always within sight of a trained security officer/staff member during public hours.

Environment: Light level 18-to-22-foot candles for paintings and 5-to-7-foot candles for works on paper and other light restricted objects; humidity -50% plus or minus 5% and temperature 68 - 72 degrees, no direct sunlight and no direct contact with light fixtures or heating, air conditioning, ventilation, or electrical outlets

Space: Approximately 3,000 sq. feet

Shipping: Air ride, climate controlled

Insurance: All risk fine arts, wall to wall

Venue Availability: twelve to sixteen running weeks (approximately)

Venue Fee: \$25,000, in addition to insurance and transit