

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Media Contact • Jill E. Dunne • Director of Marketing and Communications

513-639-2954 • [media@cincyart.org](mailto:media@cincyart.org)

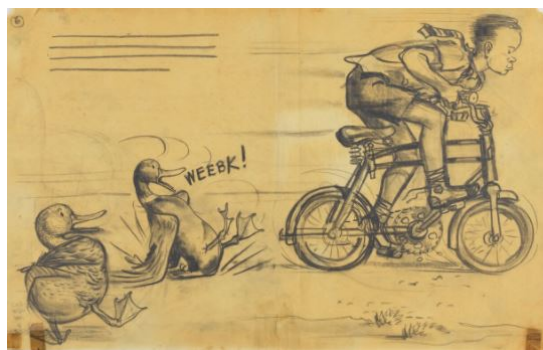
953 Eden Park Drive | Cincinnati, Ohio | 45202

[www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org](http://www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org)

**\*Images Available Upon Request**

## **Make way for the illustrations of Robert McCloskey at the Cincinnati Art Museum starting July 20**

**CINCINNATI**— The Cincinnati Art Museum is proud to celebrate Hamilton, Ohio's own Robert McCloskey (1914-2003) with the special exhibition [\*Make Way for Ducklings: The Art of Robert McCloskey\*](#), on view July 20–September 9, 2018. The exhibition delves into the life and legacy of the writer and illustrator of numerous classic children's books that have captivated readers of all ages for generations. The recipient of two Caldecott Medals and three Caldecott Honors, McCloskey was a major force in twentieth century children's literature.



Organized by The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art in Amherst, Massachusetts, *Make Way for Ducklings* consists of over 100 original artworks, ephemera and rare preliminary book materials. While emphasis centers on the classic picture book *Make Way for Ducklings* (1941), the exhibition considers McCloskey's entire body of work.

Cincinnati Art Museum Director of Learning & Interpretation Emily Holtrop is curator of the exhibition. "In line with the museum's mission and strategic plan, the Cincinnati Art Museum is thrilled to welcome a collection of artworks that engage and delight visitors of all ages and

generations," says Holtrop. "McCloskey's illustrations do more than visually captivate readers—they capture the essence of life's simple pleasures, reminding viewers to enjoy the little things and savor each day."

Robert McCloskey was born in Hamilton, Ohio, in 1914. He spent his childhood years in Hamilton and later attended Vesper George Art School in Boston in the early 1930s. McCloskey's initial artistic attempts were unsuccessful; it wasn't until he received encouragement from The Viking Press children's book editor May Masse that his career began to take off. Three years after their initial meeting, McCloskey shared an early draft of his first book, *Lentil*, with Masse and was met with approval. McCloskey knew he had found his calling.

McCloskey's books *Lentil* (1940), *Homer Price* (1943), and *Centerburg Tales* (1951) recall the artist's boyhood in Hamilton, Ohio. In *Blueberries for Sal* (1948), *One Morning in Maine* (1952) and *Burt Dow*, *Deep-Water Man* (1963), the artist tells family-based stories set in his adopted state of Maine.

Also on view will be McCloskey's illustrations for books by other authors, including *Journey Cake, Ho!* (1953) and *Henry Reed, Inc.* (1958). The exhibition culminates with a selection of independent work—watercolors and paintings—that connect McCloskey to such prominent twentieth-century American painters as Thomas Hart Benton and Edward Hopper.

The exhibition includes a family-friendly drawing activity and related programs will be held at the museum throughout the summer. They include: **Connect: A program for adults with developmental disabilities and their caregivers** on July 28, **Gallery Experience: Robert McCloskey with Emily Holtrop** on July 29, **Moving Images: Robert McCloskey's Homer Price Stories** on August 2, **Artist Workshop: Animal Illustrations** on August 18, and **Family First Saturday: Make Way for Ducklings** on September 1. To learn more, please visit [www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org/mccloskey](http://www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org/mccloskey).

# cincinnati art museum

*Make Way for Ducklings* will be on view in the Schiff Gallery and Balcony, Galleries 234 and 235. Admission is free.

**Image credit line:** Robert McCloskey (1914–2003), United States ““Look out!” squawked Mrs. Mallard, all of a dither. “You’ll get run over!””, 1941, *Make Way for Ducklings* [The Viking Press 1941], graphite on tracing paper, Courtesy of The May Masee Collection, Emporia State University Special Collections and Archives, Emporia State University

## **About the Cincinnati Art Museum**

The Cincinnati Art Museum is supported by the generosity of individuals and businesses that give annually to Artswave. The Ohio Arts Council helps fund the Cincinnati Art Museum with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. The Cincinnati Art Museum gratefully acknowledges operating support from the City of Cincinnati, as well as our members.

Free general admission to the Cincinnati Art Museum is made possible by a gift from The Rosenthal Family Foundation. Special exhibition pricing may vary. Parking at the Cincinnati Art Museum is free. The museum is open Tuesday – Sunday, 11 a.m.–5 p.m. and Thursday, 11 a.m.–8 p.m.

###