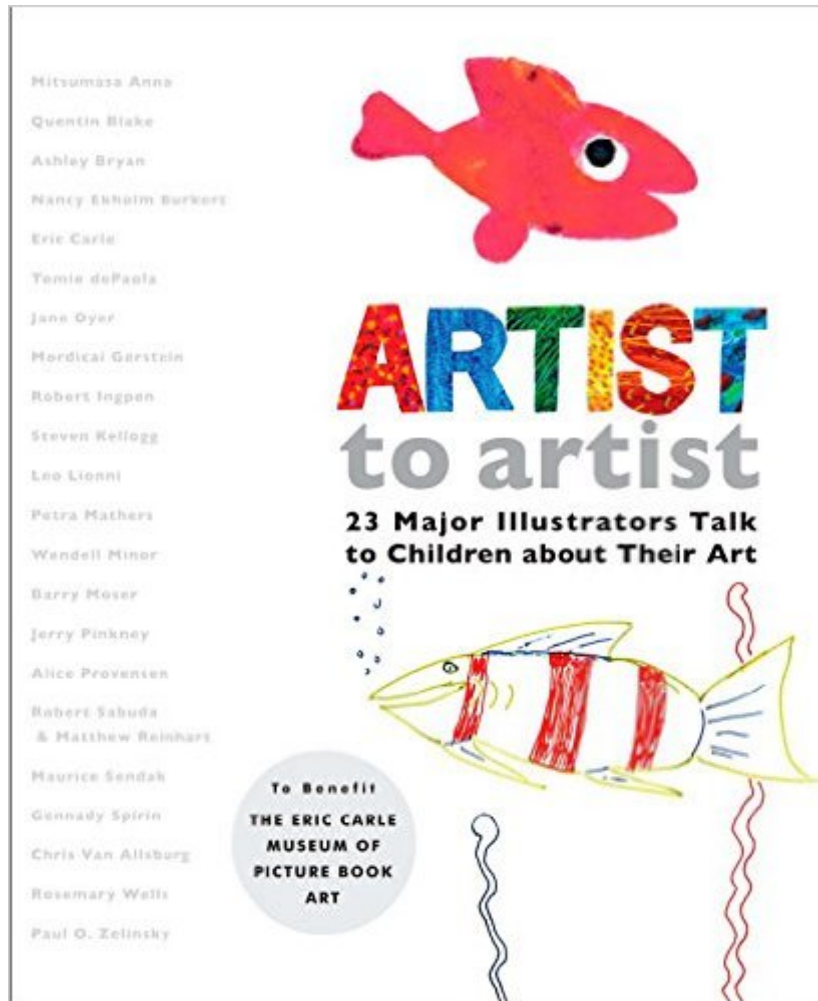


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# Artist To Artist: 23 Major Illustrators Talk To Children About Their Art



## Synopsis

This gorgeous collection of art (and the artists behind it) includes work by some of the world's most renowned children's book illustrators—Mitsumasa Anno, Quentin Blake, Ashley Bryan, Nancy Ekholm Burkert, Eric Carle, Tomie dePaola, Jane Dyer, Mordicai Gerstein, Robert Ingpen, Steven Kellogg, Leo Lionni, Petra Mathers, Wendell Minor, Barry Moser, Jerry Pinkney, Alice Provenson, Robert Sabuda, Matthew Reinhart, Maurice Sendak, Gennady Spirin, Chris Van Allsburg, Rosemary Wells, and Paul O. Zelinsky. It's a remarkable and beautiful anthology that features twenty-three of the most honored and beloved artists in children's literature, talking informally to children—sharing secrets about their art and how they began their adventures into illustration. Fold-out pages featuring photographs of their early work, their studios and materials, as well as sketches and finished art create an exuberant feast for the eye that will attract both children and adults. Self-portraits of each illustrator crown this important anthology that celebrates the artists and the art of the picture book. An event book for the ages. Proceeds from the book will benefit the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art in Amherst, MA.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Sometimes a really creative artist has vision beyond himself and philanthropic urges to propel him. "Artist to Artist: 23 Major Illustrators Talk to Children About Their Art" is just one product of the merger of these three qualities in Eric Carle, children's book writer and illustrator. But wait, there's more. He and his wife developed and built a museum called the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book

Art in Boston. Here the art of the picture book from around the world is celebrated. From the website comes this statement about fulfillment of the mission--"...by collecting, presenting and celebrating the art of the picture book from around the world and by providing interactive experiences and programs that are engaging and educational." One area Carle most values in the museum is the art studio where visitors (activity geared toward children) can actually create a "masterpiece." If you adore picture book illustrations (as I do), then visit the website for its treasures. A second enterprise that sprang from the concept of "Artist to Artist" is the degree program with Simmons College, also in Boston. A student could earn a master's degree in Children's Literature or a joint art/literature/writing degree. For teachers and other professionals, an every-other-summer program focuses on picture book art. Visit the website for more information. The proceeds from this book go directly to the museum. Even if there were not a museum, this book alone is a treasure in itself! Because Carle's desire--with talent behind it--to create art began in childhood, he conceived the idea of an anthology of picture book art dedicated to children who also discover the talent and desire to create art. He cites his mentors and tells children that they can think of this book as their mentors. The 23 artists whose work comprises the pages of this book are certainly inspiring and exemplary. The layout for the pages of the first artist of the 23 is like the layout of the last one and all the ones in-between: A one-page letter to the reader/child--including a childhood picture of the artist, two pages of art, including a photograph of the artist's studio, and a self-portrait. The first artist included in the book is Mitsumasa Anno (with whom I just recently became familiar) and the last is the collaborative team of Robert Sabuda and Matthew Reinhart --the others in between are arranged alphabetically. I don't know why Sabuda and Reinhart are the last ones unless it is because they are pop-up artists. Perhaps they are placed last because their art is so different. I'm just guessing. Here are statements from some of the 23 artists about their childhood dreams:

Mitsumasa Anno: "I believe that the culture that is part of your being from childhood is of great importance." Eric Carle: "But I also try to keep an open mind, to listen to my intuition and allow for the unexpected, the coincidental, even the quirky to enter into my work." Tomie dePaola: "I am just as happy as a lark that I am an Artist....But it is hard work....You have to practice, practice, practice--and don't copy." Steven Kellogg: "One of the most fascinating things to me about drawing was the fact that I could create stories with my pictures." Maurice Sendak: "As an aspiring young artist, you should strive for originality of vision. No story is worth the writing, no picture worth the making, if it is not a work of the imagination." Rosemary Wells: "Few people in this world can truly say they love their jobs and the meaning of their work. If you stay true to yourself and practice, practice, practice, you will have a life where you love what you do." Oh so inspiring, so full of worthy

quotes and childhoods rife with possibilities--the artists in this book, their lives and their work, make "Artist to Artist" a must-have book for teachers and parents, especially if you have an aspiring artist in your child--and definitely one or two for the school library!

I purchased this book for my 18 year old daughter, who is off to college next year to major in art. Her ambition is to be an illustrator, so I thought it would be inspirational for her. She loves that it features the illustrators of many of her favorite books from when she was small. A great book for anyone who enjoys illustration and picture books.

I have to confess I bought this book for my 4 yr. old daughter and ended up keeping it for myself! It's still in the family so I think it's okay--besides I think she's a bit young for it! I bought it because I thought it would be inspirational for my young daughter and as I started reading through it I found it inspiring myself. I love the way the artist's talk about their experiences with art. I also enjoyed looking at the art they created when they were young. Many of the artists also give bits of inspiring words for the young artists to think about. I think this book would be a wonderful gift for a young inspiring artist or anyone who enjoys art!

This book is beautiful in every way. The selection of featured illustrators includes Mitsumisa Anno, Nancy Elkholtz Burkert, Eric Carle, Tomie dePaola, Leo Lionni, Barry Moser, Jerry Pinkney, Alice Provensen, Maurice Sendak, Gennady Spirin, Chris Van Allsburg and many others. The text (written by the artists) is fascinating and easily readable for older children and adults. Foldout pages show examples of each artist's early work, their studios and materials, finished work and a self-portrait. The color quality of the reproductions is outstanding and Robert Sabuda's page features a real Pop-up! If you love book illustration I highly recommend this book. I found it to be illuminating and inspiring!

As an artist myself, I find it inspirational to talk with other artists and to explore the many things people do to express their creativity and keep us collectively evolving our consciousness. I believe art, music, literature...the "arts" are the gateway to awakening. Perfect book to encourage kids and adults alike...art isn't something you do after getting the 'important' work done (as described to me by an 8 year old who shares with me the requirement at school to do all the important work first so you can have time for art on Friday.). Art is living and breathing...it is what we do because we are human and need to be creative and find ways of expression. No kid should be

held hostage to the idea that art is frivolous or unimportant. Creative expression is essential to the nature of humankind.

i thought this book was going to be good, but i didn't know it would be this good. each well-known children's book writer/illustrator writes about their lives, influences and inspirations. included are early photos, first drawings and a full page self-portrait. so thoughtfully put together. a beautiful book to browse through and inspire you and your children to pick up a tool and draw, paint and create.

Artist to Artist is a book conceived by Eric Carle and written by twenty three major children's book illustrators to children interested in picture book art, Each artist has written a personal letter describing their feelings about art and literature with bits of their biographies and samples of their artwork at different ages and stages in their lives. The book provides encouragement for young artists and enlightenment for anyone interested in the art of creating picture books for children. The book provides personal stories and proves, in the words of St. Thomas Aquinas, "an artist is not a special kind of person, but every person is a special kind of artist."

We wanted to encourage our grand daughter to continue to see the world through her own eyes and not let the school system corrupt that wonderful view. She loved the book and how its authors and selected artists were able to create in their own manner. A successful purchase in my opinion.

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