



NEWS RELEASE

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Journey of Memory

ALLEN SAY



April 11 to August 9 at Joslyn Art Museum; Free Admission!

(Omaha, NE) – An acclaimed author and illustrator of picture books – among them *Grandfather's Journey*, awarded the Caldecott Medal in 1994 – Allen Say has spent much of his career exploring the rich divide between his Japanese youth and American coming of age, with personal and family experiences at the soul of many of the stories. It is Say's keen ability to convey sentiments of alienation and dislocation, in ways that speak directly to children, that makes his books so remarkable. A Joslyn Art Museum Mind's Eye Gallery exhibition, *Journey of Memory* examines both the thematic complexity and the technical mastery of this prolific artist and writer. The exhibition opens April 11 and continues through August 9. Admission is free.

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Journey of Memory: Allen Say at Joslyn Art Museum

Journey of Memory is organized by National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature (Abilene, TX). Sponsored by an anonymous donor. An Omaha Sister Cities 50th Anniversary event (see information on page 2).

Visitors will see nearly 80 pen and ink and watercolor illustrations for 22 books including *The Boy of the Three-Year Nap* (Caldecott Honor), *Tree of Cranes*, *Grandfather's Journey*, *Tea with Milk*, *Allison*, *The Sign Painter*, *Home of the Brave*, *Music for Alice*, *The Boy in the Garden*, and *The Favorite Daughter*. Also included are illustrations for *Drawing from Memory*, which chronicles Say's own journey, during WWII, as an apprentice to Noro Shinpei, whom he came to consider his "spiritual father" and mentor.

About Allen Say

Allen Say found his place writing and illustrating children's books somewhat by chance. Born in Yokohama, Japan, in 1937, he dreamed of becoming a cartoonist from an early age. At 12 years old, he left home and apprenticed to Japan's leading cartoonist, Noro Shinpei. After moving to California at age 16, Say attended a military academy, studied architecture at the University of California at Berkeley, spent two years in the U.S. Army, and eventually settled into a career in advertising. He worked as a commercial photographer for 20 years before stumbling into a rewarding career as an author-illustrator in the 1970s. Say lives in Portland, Oregon.

Omaha Sister Cities Association Celebrates 50 Years

Omaha's first sister city relationship with Shizuoka, Japan (just a two-hour drive from artist Allen Say's birthplace) began in 1965. In 1992, Omaha and Braunschweig, Germany were twinned; followed by Siauliai, Lithuania in 1996; Naas, Ireland in 2002; Xalapa, Mexico in 2005; and most recently, Yantai, China in 2011. Omaha will showcase each of these Sister City relationships throughout 2015. *Journey of Memory: Allen Say* is Joslyn's congratulatory nod to OSCA for its ongoing mission of promoting peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation . . . one individual, one community at a time.

KickstART Saturday – Saturday, June 13; 10 am to noon; FREE

Presented six times per year, on select Saturdays from 10 am-noon, these free events entertain and engage families with hands-on activities, performances, and demonstrations that complement Joslyn's special exhibitions. On June 13, guests will explore *Journey of Memory: Allen Say* and honor the Omaha Sister Cities Association's 50th anniversary (above). Some friends from Shizuoka, Japan, one of Omaha's sister cities, will be special guests. Activities include designing and painting Japanese lanterns; Japanese calligraphy; origami, and a performance of the Soran Bushi by Japanese students.

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add 2-2-2-2

Journey of Memory: Allen Say at Joslyn Art Museum

Books by Allen Say are available for purchase in Joslyn's Hitchcock Museum Shop (open during all regular Museum hours). For exhibition images, contact Amy Rummel, director of marketing and public relations, at (402) 661-3822 or arummel@joslyn.org.

Image Credit (page 1): "Outside, everything was covered with snow," from *Tree of Cranes*, 1991, watercolor on paper, © Allen Say

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Our Mission – Joslyn Art Museum collects, preserves, and interprets the visual arts of the highest quality, fostering appreciation and enjoyment of art for the benefit of a diverse audience.
Our Vision – To be cherished and respected as a premier art museum.

Joslyn Art Museum showcases art from ancient times to the present. The Museum was a gift to the people of Omaha from Sarah Joslyn in memory of her husband, George, who made his fortune as president of the Western Newspaper Union. The Museum's original 1931 building is one of the finest examples of Art Deco architecture in the nation, with 38 types of marble from seven countries. The Walter and Suzanne Scott Pavilion, a 58,000-square-foot addition built in 1994, was designed by renowned British architect Norman Foster as his first U.S. commission. The Museum features galleries, a 1,000-seat concert hall, fountain court, education technology gallery, lecture hall, classrooms, sculpture garden, café, and shop.

General Museum Admission: Free (the *Journey of Memory* exhibition is included in free general Museum admission).
Regular Museum Hours (includes exhibition): Tuesday through Sunday, 10 am–4 pm; late 'til 8 pm on Thursday; closed Monday and major holidays.

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