



## NEWS RELEASE

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# GLORIOUS FLIGHTS

## Illustration Art of Alice and Martin Provensen

April 29 through September 3 at Joslyn Art Museum; Free Admission!

Come for KickstART Saturday on June 10!

(Omaha, NE) — Alice Provensen (b. 1918) met her husband Martin (1916-1987) in Los Angeles in 1943, where both held coveted spots in the burgeoning animation industry — he at Disney, she at the rival Walter Lantz Studio. During the war years, the Provensens worked on military training films. Then, with the war's end, they turned to book illustration and, joining forces as a tight-knit, collaborative team, created book after book of rare graphic distinction, nearly all of them for children. *Glorious Flights*, curated by Leonard Marcus, one of the world's leading writers about children's books and the people who create them, features original art



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*Glorious Flights: Illustration Art of Alice and Martin Provensen*

from twenty-one books illustrated by the Provensens, including *The Glorious Flight Across the Channel with Louis Blériot*, awarded the Caldecott Medal (the Provensens also received a Caldecott Honor for their illustrations for the book *A Visit to William Blake's Inn*, not featured in the exhibition).

The Provensens first made their mark as the illustrators of several Little Golden books, including Margaret Wise Brown's *The Color Kittens* and larger-scale Golden Book volumes such as Robert Louis Stevenson's *A Child's Garden of Verses*. The couple was known from the start for their sprightly wit and elegant contemporary design sense. Over the years, their work diversified as the couple pursued their love of historical research, world travel, and artistic self-reinvention. No project was too big or daunting for them. They often chose the road less traveled by crafting intimate sketchbook-style picture books like *The Year at Maple Hill Farm* and chronicling little-known true stories such as in *The Glorious Flight*. After Martin died, Alice carried on, creating an astounding array of new work, ranging from *The Buck Stops Here* to the cozily charming *A Day in the Life of Murphy*. Today, at 98, she makes her home in San Clemente, California.

On view in the Museum's Mind's Eye Gallery April 29 through September 3, the exhibition is organized by National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature (Abilene, TX) and sponsored at Joslyn by Fran and Rich Juro. Admission is free.

### Exhibition Extras

#### **KickstART Saturday**

On **Saturday, June 10, from 10 am to noon**, kids and families are invited to celebrate the work of award-winning illustrators Alice and Martin Provensen at Joslyn's KickstART Saturday. Sponsored by the Joslyn Art Museum Association, this event is FREE!

- Visitors will see examples of the Provensens's original art in the Mind's Eye Gallery
- Inspired by illustrations for *The Color Kittens*, guests will mix colors for a marbled masterpiece on paper
- Participants will see a demonstration by Ballet Nebraska that celebrates the book *Tales from the Ballet*. Children will be invited to join the ballerinas on stage.

#### **Museum Shop**

Books illustrated by the Provensens 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](mailto:arummel@joslyn.org).

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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, shop, and Art Works, an interactive space for art exploration.

**General Museum Admission:** Free [the *Glorious Flights* 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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