

## NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release  
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# *I See That Fable Differently*

## Selections from Creighton University's Carlson Fable Collection



(Omaha, NE) – Over the past 35 years, Creighton University's Fr. Greg Carlson, S.J., has collected some 9,000 books, and thousands of objects, all presenting Aesopic fables, and all making their home at Creighton. For Fr. Carlson, the diverse interpretations and representations of different storytellers and artists have made the stories more interesting than ever. From January 27 through April 29, Joslyn Art Museum hosts an exhibition of books and objects from the Carlson Fable Collection. On view in Joslyn's Mind's Eye Gallery, *I See That Fable Differently* is sponsored by Fran and Rich Juro and Cynthia Epstein and David Wiesman. Admission to the exhibition is included in free general Museum admission.

In the fall of 2017, during a Creighton University Honors Program course entitled "Researching and Exhibiting Aesop," Fr. Carlson, Associate Professor Erin Walcek Averett, and Jess Benjamin, Creighton's Lied Art Gallery Director, guided a team of undergraduate students, who selected and researched more than forty objects, representing thirteen fables, which comprise this exhibition. Books, prints, tableware, tiles, toys, cards, and even a dinner menu combine to suggest different ways of seeing what happens in each fable. At least two objects illustrate each fable. Joslyn's *The Grasshopper and the Ant*, painted by Jean Georges Vibert and on view in the Kiewit Gallery, was the topic of a lecture Fr. Carlson delivered at the Museum in 2010, which sparked the development of this exhibition. Seven items in the show, from a newspaper cartoon to a fancy knife rest, question what happened between that grasshopper and ant.

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*I See That Fable Differently at Joslyn Art Museum*

## Exhibition Programs & Events

### ***Companion Exhibition at Creighton; Evening Gallery Hop on February 8***

Through February 11, the public is invited to see *Thundering Tortoises and Horrified Hares: Aesop's Fables in Popular Culture*, a complementary exhibition drawn from the Carlson Collection, curated by Creighton students, and on view at Creighton University's Lied Art Gallery (2500 California Plaza). On **Thursday, February 8**, from 5–6:30 pm, guests are invited to stop by the Lied Art Gallery to enjoy appetizers and a cash bar and to see what happens when Aesop meets pop culture. Joslyn's exhibition will be open until 8 pm (cash bar begins at 5 pm) that same evening, and Fr. Greg Carlson will be on hand to visit with guests at the Museum after 6:30 pm. All are welcome!

### ***Public Talk: Why Artists Love Aesop***

Fr. Greg Carlson, S.J., will present a free public talk, "Why Artists Love Aesop," in Joslyn's lecture hall on **Sunday, February 11, at 2 pm**. Artists have loved Aesop's fables since antiquity. For some, fables were a stepping-stone in developing their art. Others welcomed the chance to illustrate them at the height of their career, as the challenge of visually presenting morals and human situations truly showcased their artistic skill. Like the writers and readers of fables, artists throughout the ages continually seek to discover new things happening in these timeless stories.

Rev. Gregory I. Carlson, S.J., is Associate Professor of Theology and Literature in Creighton University's College of Arts and Sciences. With a doctorate in Latin, Greek, and Philosophy from the University of Heidelberg in Germany, Fr. Carlson has spoken and written extensively on Vergil's Aeneid, Homer's Odyssey, Roman poetry, and a variety of subjects connected with Aesop's fables.

IMAGES: "The Ox and the Frog," from *The Fables of Aesop and Others Translated into Human Nature*, 1857, designed and drawn on the wood by Charles H. Bennett, engraved by Swain, handcolored by the publisher (Hardbound. London: W. Kent & Co.)



**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 (includes *I See That Fable Differently*).

**Regular Museum Hours:** Tuesday through Sunday, 10 am–4 pm; late 'til 8 pm on Thursday; closed Monday and major holidays.

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