



About The Mazza Museum of International Art from Picture Books

The Mazza Museum has the distinction of being the first and largest teaching museum in the world specializing in original artwork from picture books. Its mission is to promote literacy through its educational programs and to collect, exhibit and preserve original art from children's books.

Goals of the museum include encouraging visitors to view the best works of art available in the field of children's book illustration, provide exemplary guided tours, present educational opportunities to both children and adults, serve as a center for study of the art of children's books, work cooperatively with public and private schools, develop creative educational programs, offer museum-quality storage to archive original materials, provide gallery space to exhibit original works along with corresponding books and teaching tools.

Some of the Mazza Museum's programs include:

- Public presentations by noted illustrators and authors of children's picture books
- Family-focused events such as Tales for Tots and Funday Sunday
- Mazza Museum School Extension Program (schools participate in seven counties)
- School tours and programs (busloads of children visit from the tri-state area)
- Docent-led tours for adults and children (Mazza Enthusiasts volunteer group helps run programs and trains museum guides)
- National traveling exhibits
- Physician Partnership Program (places artworks and related books in offices)
- Mazza Fall Weekend and Summer Conference (undergraduate and graduate credit)
- Mazza Medallion of Excellence for Artistic Diversity (biennial award to recognize outstanding artists who work in many different media)

History of the Mazza Museum

Dr. Jerry J. Mallett, professor of education, suggested the idea of creating a collection of original artwork from children's picture books as part of the centennial celebration for the Division of Teacher Education of then-Findlay College in 1982.

Two Findlay alumni, Dr. August Mazza and his late wife, Aleda, contributed toward the purchase of the first four pieces, valued at \$1,700. The Mazza Centennial Collection was named in their honor.

From the initial four works of art, the collection has grown into the Mazza Museum of International Art from Picture Books, comprising more than 7,000 original illustrations. "However, size is not the primary aspect," Mallett said. "Of more importance are the activities we are developing with the educational programs and the consequent involvement of adults and children in our museum."

In 1994, the Mazza Museum moved from Shafer Library into its present facility in the Virginia B. Gardner Fine Arts Pavilion, which includes five galleries, a library, a small gift shop and offices.

In 2007, the Museum celebrated its 25th anniversary. Construction was completed on a 9,000-square-foot addition to the existing location. The addition includes technology-equipped classrooms, a children's art room, gift gallery, conference room and a state-of-the-art vault to house the museum's extensive collection of original art from picture books not currently on display.

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