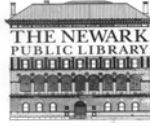


THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
5 WASHINGTON STREET, NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07102



P R E S S R E L E A S E

Thursday, May 28, 2009

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**Newark Public Library Hosts Collection of Images from
Children's Illustrators Leo and Diane Dillon**

Children and their books is the summer focus at the Newark Public Library as a new traveling exhibit on loan from the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature (NCCIL) will be on display from July 9 through September 9, featuring artists Leo and Diane Dillon. The summer stay at the Newark Public Library is the only scheduled stop in the New York Metropolitan area.

The Global Artistry of Leo and Diane Dillon: A Retrospective features original artwork from these outstanding illustrators. We are fortunate to bring it to the Library." said Library Director Wilma J. Grey. "The exhibit also complements Be Creative @your Library, the Prudential Summer Reading Challenge."

The traveling exhibit opened last August at the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature in Abilene, TX.

The exhibit unites almost 75 works that span the illustrators' extensive careers; from their first collaboration to their most recent images. The Dillons blend flat design and rendering; deep and saturated color is one of the hallmarks of their work.

Established 12 years ago the NCCIL has a small permanent collection, but has acquired sufficient national renown to request and be granted stewardship of the Dillon's illustrations and other artwork, according to Debbie Lillick, its executive director. The Center has served as curator of exhibits featuring some 30 artists, including Robert Sabuda (twice) and a retrospective of art from the Golden Books format from the Random House archives.

While the Dillons do not lay claim to a particular style, their work is instantly recognizable. They won back-to-back Caldecott medals for their 1976 and 1977 works *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears* and *Ashanti to Zulu African Traditions*. They also have received several New York Times Best Illustrated Awards and citations from the Boston Globe/Horn Book Awards, Coretta Scott King Awards and the Society of Illustrators Gold Medal.

Their work glows warm with color with subjects ranging from richly uniformed African-American soldiers sitting astride horses marching in rows to jewel-toned animals, bright women in wonder and ethereal images pertaining to science fiction and biblical works. Their art embraces cultural diversity-- African-Americans, Native Americans and Asians-- as well as the Scandinavian stereotypes of fairy tales.

Residents of New York, the Dillons say their partnership of two distinct artists with different styles has resulted in the creation of a third artist. This third artist, an amalgamation of each, transcends their individuality, blending, merging and magnifying their work to create a new sensibility and expression.

Born just 11 days apart, the partners met at the Parsons School of Design in the 1950's; she was a California girl, he was born and raised in Brooklyn. They competed as artists at first and then opted to form a partnership that led to marriage and a 50-year career as illustrators.

The Newark Public Library will feature this exhibit in the third floor gallery through September 9 during regular Library summer hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Wednesday 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The Library is closed on Sunday. For more information please call the Library at 973-733-7797 or log on to www.npl.org All programs and exhibits are free and open to the public.