

1109 5th Ave at 92nd St, New York NY

Curious George Saves the Day: The Art of Margret and H.A. Rey

March 14, 2010 - August 01, 2010

Introduction



... an enticing, appealing, intelligent show... — [The New York Times](#)

Curious George, the beloved, irrepressible monkey of children’s book lore, is famous for his ability to “save the day.” Interpreting the role he played in safeguarding his own creators in times of danger as symbolic, this exhibition delves into the remarkable lives and works of Margret and H. A. Rey. The couple fled Paris in 1940 with a Curious George manuscript in their suitcase. During a tense inspection of their belongings by a border official, children’s illustrations were found and they were allowed to continue on their way, eventually reaching the United States.

Featuring nearly eighty original drawings and preparatory dummies for Margret and H. A. Rey children’s books and documentation related to their escape from Nazi-occupied Europe, the exhibition will examine the parallels between the obstacles the Reys faced and the drawings that may have saved their lives. The story of their life in Paris and narrow escape is also told through an interactive timeline.

Appropriate for adults and children, the exhibition includes a reading room inspired by the beloved monkey’s escapades in *Curious George Flies a Kite*.



Download and print the [Family Gallery Guide](#) (PDF).
View [Curriculum Materials for Educators](#) (PDF).

The interactive timeline is not available on Saturdays.

[Hours & Admission](#)

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Related Links

Reviews

Monkey Business in a World of Evil, [The New York Times](#) (3/25/2010)

A Monkey Born of Trials and Tribulations, [The Wall Street Journal](#) (4/7/2010)

Slide Shows

Curious George Saves the Day, [The New York Times](#) (3/25/2010)

Videos

Curator Claudia Nahson discusses exhibition. *Curious George at The Jewish Museum*, [SundayArts](#), WNET, Channel 13 (3/21/2010)

Audio

Claudia Nahson, curator at The Jewish Museum, Ellen Ruffin, curator at the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection at the University of Southern Mississippi, and Louise Borden, author of *The Journey that Saved Curious George*, discuss the exhibition. (1 hr) [On Point](#) with Tom Ashbrook, WBUR (3/29/2010)



H. A. Rey (American, b. Germany, 1898-1977)

Final illustration for "One day George saw a man. He had on a large yellow straw hat," published in *The Original Curious George* (1998)

France, 1939–40

Watercolor, charcoal, and color pencil on paper

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Margret and H. A. Rey

United States, late 1940s

H. A. & Margret Rey Papers, de Grummond Children’s Literature Collection, McCain Library and Archives, The University of Southern Mississippi



H. A. Rey (American, b. Germany, 1898-1977)

Final illustration for “This is George. He lived in Africa,” published in *The Original Curious George* (1998), France, 1939–40, watercolor, charcoal, and color pencil on paper. H. A. & Margret Rey Papers, de Grummond Children’s Literature Collection, The University of Southern Mississippi. Curious George and related characters, created by Margret and H. A. Rey, are copyrighted and trademarked by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company and used under license. Copyright © 2010 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved.



H. A. Rey (American, b. Germany, 1898-1977)

Final illustration for *How Do you Get There?* (1941)

Paris, early 1940

Watercolor on board

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H. A. Rey (American, b. Germany, 1898-1977)

Unpublished drawing United States, c. 1950s–60s, pencil on paper. H. A. & Margret Rey Papers, de Grummond Children’s Literature Collection, McCain Library and Archives, The University of Southern Mississippi.

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Special Thanks

de Grummond Children’s Literature Collection, McCain Library and Archives, The University of Southern Mississippi

Louise Borden and Allan Drummond, author and illustrator of *The Journey That Saved Curious George*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company (2005)

Calendar

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