



LOYOLA UNIVERSITY MUSEUM of ART

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Megan Troppito

Communication Specialist

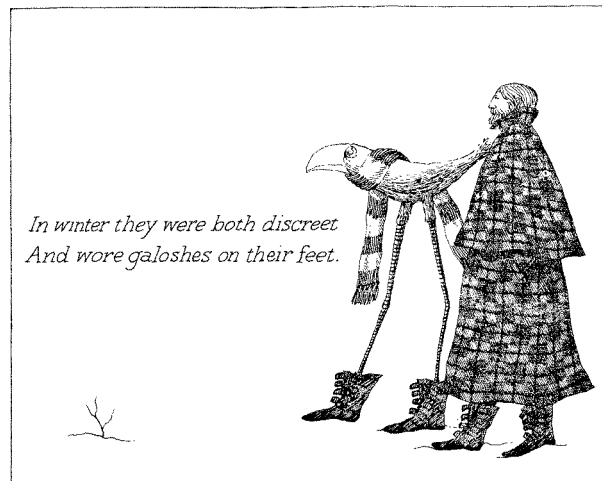
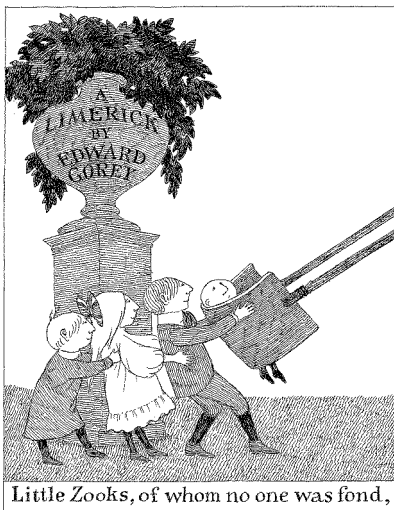
312.915.6324

mtroppito@luc.edu

Loyola University Museum of Art Presents *Elegant Enigmas: the Art of Edward Gorey and G is for Gorey - C is for Chicago: The Collection of Thomas Michalak*
Two Exhibitions Coming to Chicago in February 2014

CHICAGO, June 3, 2013 – The Loyola University Museum of Art (LUMA) presents two comprehensive exhibitions displaying the work of writer and artist Edward Gorey from February 15 to June 15, 2014. This combined exhibition will be the first major exhibition of Gorey's work in his hometown of Chicago.

Elegant Enigmas: the Art of Edward Gorey and *G is for Gorey - C is for Chicago: The Collection of Thomas Michalak* both provide an in-depth look at this artist whose work was known for cautionary tales, dry wit, and characters costumed in the Edwardian style. Gorey's legacy is shown through the hundreds of original drawings, works, and illustrations, and ephemera of popular culture included in the two exhibitions.



Gorey is well-known for the opening animated credits of the PBS television series *Mystery!* (now *Masterpiece Mystery*). His influence on other artists, illustrators, and sub-cultures is significant as well. Film director, producer, and artist Tim Burton, and writer Daniel Handler, most famously known as Lemony Snicket, have all been influenced by Gorey's unique style and dark humor.

Gorey (1925–2000) was born and spent his early years in Chicago attending Francis W. Parker School and, for a short time, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He came from an artistic background with his father as a Chicago newsman and writer and his maternal grandmother as a greeting card designer and illustrator.

Elegant Enigmas was organized by the Brandywine Museum in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania, with the cooperation of the Edward Gorey Charitable Trust, and has been traveling throughout the United States with great success. Previous cities include: Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania; San Antonio, Texas; Orlando, Florida; Boston, Massachusetts; Portland, Maine; and West Palm Beach, Florida.

G is for Gorey is a companion exhibition from the Thomas Michalak Collection, which was recently given to Loyola University Chicago Libraries. Thomas Michalak (BS '63), a retired Harvard librarian and member of the board of directors of the Edward Gorey House in Yarmouth Port, Massachusetts, has been collecting Gorey materials for over 35 years.

The exhibitions are co-presented by Loyola University Chicago Libraries and LUMA with the cooperation of the Edward Gorey Charitable Trust. Companion programs of literature, theater, music, and other events will be announced fall 2013. A Gorey Birthday Ball to benefit Loyola University Chicago Libraries and LUMA will be held on February 22, 2014. For more information, visit LUC.edu/luma.

About LUMA

Opened in 2005, the Loyola University Museum of Art is dedicated to exploring, promoting, and understanding art and artistic expression that illuminates the enduring spiritual questions of all cultures and societies. As a museum with an interest in education and educational programming, LUMA reflects the University's Jesuit mission and is dedicated to helping people of all creeds explore the roots of their faith and spiritual quests. Located at Loyola University Chicago's Water Tower Campus, the museum occupies the first three floors of the University's historic Lewis Towers on Chicago's famous Michigan Avenue. For more information, visit the museum's website at LUC.edu/luma.

Art illuminating the spirit!

-LUMA-

Image Credit

Illustration[s] © The Edward Gorey Charitable Trust. All rights reserved.

“G is for Gorey - C is for Chicago” the Collection of Thomas Michalak.

Since Gorey’s major writings and art are well documented in “Elegant Enigmas”, the “G is for Gorey - C is for Chicago” exhibition will focus on Edward Gorey as a person and his extensive work designing books, creating illustrations for book jackets, illustrations for magazine articles, illustrations for children’s books, and his life and work on Cape Cod.

Specific themes include:

Gorey’s early art in middle school and later as a high school student at Chicago’s Parker School,
The importance of his work in typography and book design, especially with Anchor books,
The role of the Gotham Book Mart in his career,
His illustrations for children’s books,
His work in the theatre on Cape Cod, and
The Edward Gorey House Museum on Cape Cod and its role in fostering Gorey’s legacy.

An Appeal from The Edward Gorey House Museum to Identify Gorey Art in Institutions and Private Collections

The Edward Gorey Charitable Trust is responsible for the licensing of Gorey’s work and is the custodian of collections of Gorey’s published and unpublished drawings and illustrations in his estate at the time of his death in 2000. Fortunately, Edward Gorey did preserve many of the drawings for his early works and those self-published by The Fantod Press which allowed the curators at the Brandywine Museum to assemble the drawings for his major works in *Elegant Enigmas*.

There is no inventory of Gorey drawings in museums, libraries, and private hands. As a member of the Edward Gorey House Museum Board of Trustees and curator of *G is for Gorey - C is for Chicago* exhibition, I am appealing to Gorey collectors everywhere to self-identify themselves and identify Gorey original drawings in their hands. Knowledge of the whereabouts of Gorey’s original work will contribute to the scholarship developing around Edward Gorey, his art and writings, as well as provide opportunities for exhibition in future thematic exhibitions at The Edward Gorey House and elsewhere subject to appropriate arrangements.

Individuals and institutions willing to cooperate with the creation of an inventory of Gorey’s artwork with information to be compiled in trust by The Edward Gorey House Museum should contact Thomas Michalak at goreychicago@gmail.com Inquiries will be held in complete confidence.

While the Edward Gorey House Museum works closely with the Edward Gorey Charitable Trust in many ways, please note that the Edward Gorey House Museum is a separate 501.3(c) charitable organization.

Thomas Michalak, Curator, *G is for Gorey - C is for Chicago*.
Member, Edward Gorey House Museum, Board of Trustees