Call for papers

Where the wild things are turns 50: reception and influence of the works of Maurice Sendak in France and Europe

International conference organized by Bibliothèque nationale de France and the University of Artois with the contribution of Association française de recherche sur les livres et objets culturels de l’enfance (AFRELOCE) and the support of École normale supérieure (Paris)

In 1963 Where the Wild Things Are was first published in the United States, where the works of Maurice Sendak now belong to a common cultural heritage. But what about their influence in France and Europe?

This international conference invites researchers and speakers from different fields and disciplines to give their contribution into building the history of the reception of Maurice Sendak’s work in Europe until today. Submissions may question how the dissemination of Sendak’s work has developed in a particular country and a given historical context. Publishing channels, institutional channels (libraries, schools, universities, art schools), informal channels: how did Sendak’s work make its way? How does it stand nowadays in these different networks?

Observing and analyzing editorial strategies of publication and republication in the different European countries may help to identify either common or diverging tracks along the journey of this work.

Therefore, translation policies appear to be an essential issue: which titles have been selected? For which reasons? To what extent do translation choices influence the form and reception of the work? These questions may occasion studies about a country – or a language – or an analysis of the particular ways a given album has been translated.

The question of the influence of Maurice Sendak’s work on contemporary creation will also be addressed. If Maurice Sendak has been nourished by multiple references, borrowing from literature, painting, opera, cinema from different countries and in particular from European countries, in which ways have his albums in their turn influenced contemporary creators in Europe: what are the manifestations of this influence? Which interplay of texts and images are to be discovered in the current production, relating to the multifold world of Maurice Sendak?

Scientific Committee for the Conference

Nathalie Beau (BnF),
Michel Defourny (University of Liège),
Teresa Duran (University of Barcelona),
Florence Gaiotti (University of Artois), Afreloce
Eléonore Hamaïde-Jager (University of Artois), Afreloce
Claudine Hervouët (BnF),
Déborah Lévy-Bertherat, (ENS)
Isabelle Nières-Chevrel (professeur émérite, University of Rennes II)
Olivier Piffault (BnF),
Jacques Vidal-Naquet (BnF),

Instructions

The conference will be held at the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF – Paris) on December 12th, and at the Ecole normale supérieure (ENS – Paris) on December 13th.

Languages: French, English, Spanish.

The presentations will be recorded and might be put online on one of the websites of the BnF. Each presentation is limited to 25 mn.

Proposals (containing a title and an abstract of the paper not exceeding 1000 characters) as well as a brief bio-bibliography should be sent by email to Marion Caliyannis: marion.caliyannis@bnf.fr before June 1st 2013.