



NEWS RELEASE

California College of Arts and Crafts
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Louise Gray, Director of Public Relations • OL 3-8118

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EDWARD GOREY ORIGINAL DRAWINGS AT CCAC

The original drawings of Edward Gorey, one of America's top illustrators, will be featured in a special premiere exhibition at California College of Arts and Crafts, 5212 Broadway at College, Oakland, December 1 through 23. Gorey, a designer, illustrator and editor, has distinguished himself in recent years through the creation of books of satirical verse and illustrations done in an all-but-extinct Victorian style. One-hundred and ninety of his pen and ink drawings, as detailed as steel engravings, will be displayed in the Exhibition Center, Treadwell Hall, daily, 1:00 to 5:00 P. M., and Monday and Wednesday evenings, 6:00 to 9:00 P. M.

Titles of his sinister and delightfully anti-sentimental volumes include: "The Unstrung Harp", "The Doubtful Guest", "The Bug Book", "The Listing Attic", "The Object Lesson", "The Fatal Lozenge", "The Hapless Child", "The Curious Sofa", "The Willowdale Handcar", "The Beastly Baby", "The Wuggly Ump" and a three-volume set titled "The Vinegar Works".

Gorey has produced most of the cover illustrations for Anchor Books, a division of Doubleday & Co., and also contributes to such publishers as Duell, Sloan and Pearce, Ivan Obolensky, Bobbs-Merrill and J. B. Lippincott. Some of his books were published originally by Holiday Magazine.

The artist-author, who has also used such pseudonyms as "Eduard Blutig", Mrs. Regera Dowdy", "Redway Grode", "O. Mude", "Ogdred Weary" and "Dreary Wodge" is a man of few words when it comes to saying anything about himself. In a recent letter he states:

"As to biographical material, my life is so featureless that after saying that I was born in Chicago in 1925, graduated from Harvard in 1950, and now divide my time between New York and Cape Cod, there is nothing else to mention. I have no thoughts whatever about my work, none."

With the viewing of each drawing in the exhibit, the observer is convinced only that Gorey is a consummate master of understatement. His drawings reveal a whole gallery of eccentrics, fops, yeggs, vamps, virgins, beasties, babes, monsters of every age and sex, wispy literary phantoms, unseen, unknowable 'presences', props, incredible landscapes and unfathomed interiors. He is the darling of the satirical-horror fans, a nemesis to the cult of sentimental cuteness, a general practitioner, if not originator of the highest "camp" humor.

An even casual look at Gorey's drawings reveals that his work, as it appears in published form, is not reduced in size, a common treatment for detailed illustration today. His hair-like lines converge in finished patterns that comprise a total drawing almost incomprehensible in conception. A typographical designer, he hand-letters all of his texts in a detail that approaches mechanical type.

Accompanying these original works, there will be a glass case display of his published books, which may precipitate a dash to the nearest well-stocked purveyor of Edward Goreys.

E. Theodore Lindberg
Curator of Exhibits
California College of Arts and Crafts

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