

PRESS RELEASE



WILLIAM BREMAN JEWISH HERITAGE MUSEUM
WEINBERG CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST EDUCATION
CUBA FAMILY ARCHIVES FOR SOUTHERN JEWISH HISTORY
MUSIC, ARTS & CULTURE

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November 3, 2014

Wild Things at The Breman

2014, Atlanta, GA. It's back, and better than ever! After years of travelling the celebrated exhibition *Where the Wild Things Are: Maurice Sendak in His Own Words and Pictures* returns to Atlanta with new content and a focus on literacy. It is opening November 16th and will run through July 5, 2015 at the William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum.

Aimed at promoting literacy the Breman Museum has teamed up with the Georgia Department of Education, , the Rollins Center for Language and Literacy at the Atlanta Speech School, the Georgia Art Therapy Association, The Schenck School and the PJ Library to foster reading and language development. Tim Frilingos, Breman Museum curator states " The museum along with educators have come together to reinvent the exhibition focused on three main objectives: Appreciation for the art and words of Maurice Sendak, who passed away May 8, 2012; Literacy and language development within children; Art and how it can be used as a tool for coping with difficult situations."

The Sendak exhibition features drawings, artifacts and biographical information as well as fun, interactive activities. Upon entering the gallery visitors of all ages will be immersed into Sendak's beloved stories. The exhibition includes interactive locations where visitors can dress up like wild things, slide into a bowl of chicken soup, and pick one of many of Sendak's books to read on Rosie's Stoop. Additionally there will be videos that emphasize Sendak's legacy and emphasize strategies for reading with children. Younger visitors will be introduced to Sendak's

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timeless characters, while older children and pre-teens will gain an understanding of how sketches and drawings are turned into published works. Along with the exhibition there will be ongoing workshops and events for children and families taking place on Sundays from January - July. These include live sessions on creative writing and art with established artists. With so much to see and to do everyone will discover something new about Maurice Sendak.

Growing up as the child of Jewish immigrants in Brooklyn, New York, Sendak used his family as inspiration for his stories and wild characters. His uncanny ability to portray the strange traits of
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his immigrant family and friends allowed him to merge the old and new worlds. *“Where the Wild Things Are”* is a prime example of this and won him the coveted Caldecott Medal in 1964 for “the most distinguished American picture book for children”. According to an article in the *New York Times*, Sendak is often described as one *“who wrenched the picture book out of the safe, sanitized world of the nursery and plunged it into the dark, terrifying and hauntingly beautiful recesses of the human psyche,* “Yet what makes the author’s work so unique is his memorable characters and his array of different styles.

Unapologetic about his artistic vision, Sendak often found his work at the center of controversy. He relentlessly argued for the essential rightness of children’s perceptions within the world around them and advocated for the truth. *Where the Wild Things Are*, *In The Night Kitchen*, and *The Sign at Rosie’s Door* are just a few of Sendak’s most notable works passed down from generation to generation.

“The Breman Museum is honored to host *Where the Wild Things Are: Maurice Sendak in His Own Words and Pictures* in the Blonder Gallery” states Breman Museum director, Aaron Berger “The exhibition furthers the museums goals of highlighting Jewish contributions to arts, music and culture. Maurice Sendak the artist channeled his childhood amongst his family and Jewish

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immigrants using it as inspiration for creating great works that have become part of children's lives all over the world. Parents, grandparents and children will be told the story behind the stories of Maurice Sendak and learn to love Max, Rosie and the wild things in new ways.

Through partners focused on literacy and art, parents will better understand highly effective strategies that will enrich their children's' appreciation of books and stories. The Breman Museum opens its doors and welcomes all visitors to *Where the Wild Things Are: Maurice Sendak in His Own Words and Pictures*.

This program is supported in part by the Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs.

About The Breman

The Breman Museum is located at 1440 Spring Street, (Spring Street and 18th Street enter the museum on 18th Street) Atlanta Georgia, 30309. Hours are 10AM - 5PM Sunday – Thursday, 10AM – 4 PM Friday, Closed Saturday and most Jewish holidays. Admission is free for members, \$12 for adults, \$8 for seniors age 62+, \$6 for students and teachers, \$4 for children age 3-6. For more information call (678) 222-3700 or visit theBreman.org. Parking at the museum is free.

The William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum, Atlanta's Jewish museum, offers its visitors a wealth of experience spanning Jewish Arts, History and Identity. The Breman Museum is home

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to exhibition galleries, the Weinberg Center for Holocaust Education and the Cuba Family Archives for Southern Jewish History. The Weinberg Center informs visitors from every religious and cultural background on the history of the Holocaust through the personal stories of survivors now living in Atlanta. The Cuba Family Archives, the largest repository of Southern Jewish history, houses collections of documents, photographs, artifacts and oral histories pertaining to Jewish life in Georgia and Alabama.

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Contact David Schendowich at 678.222.372 for photographs and to arrange interviews and private tour with the curator.



EDITOR: Images available in high resolution and must carry credit line:

Image courtesy of The Maurice Sendak Archive, The Rosenbach Museum & Library,
Philadelphia, PA.