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**THE MORGAN PRESENTS SPECIAL, LIMITED-RUN EXHIBITION  
OF ORIGINAL DRAWINGS FROM CHILDREN'S CLASSIC  
*WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE* BY MAURICE SENDAK**

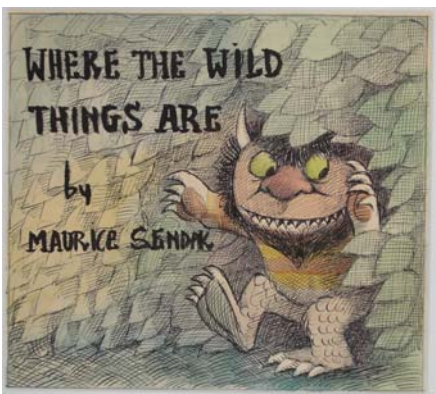
*EXHIBITION ON VIEW OCTOBER 6 – NOVEMBER 1*

***Where the Wild Things Are: Original Drawings by Maurice Sendak Part of Citywide  
Celebration Honoring Mr. Sendak and Marking Premiere of Warner Bros. Movie  
Adaptation***

Lincoln Center, New York Public Library, Museum of Modern Art to Host Other Events

**\*\*Press Viewing: Tuesday, October 6, 10 a.m. until noon\*\*  
RSVP: 212.590.0393, [media@themorgan.org](mailto:media@themorgan.org)**

**New York, NY, September 24, 2009**—The Morgan Library & Museum announced today that it will present a special exhibition of original drawings and manuscript pages from the classic children's book *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak (b. 1928). The show will run from October 6 to November 1 and is part of a citywide celebration honoring Mr. Sendak and marking the October 13 premiere of a new Warner Bros. movie adaptation, directed by Spike Jonze. Other events will take place at Lincoln Center, The New York Public Library, and The Museum of Modern Art. The Sendak works are on loan to the Morgan from the Rosenbach Museum & Library in Philadelphia.



Preliminary drawing of dust jacket for *Where the Wild Things Are*. Pen and ink, watercolor. © Maurice Sendak, 1963. All rights reserved.

The exhibition presents a rare opportunity to witness Sendak's creative process—from his early drafts about an unnamed boy in search of wild horses to the well-known narrative about a child named Max taming the beastly “things” of his own imagination. Twelve drawings and two manuscript pages will be on view in the Morgan's historic McKim building.

“We are thrilled to present this wonderful and engaging material related to one of the great masterpieces of illustrated children's books,” said William M. Griswold, director of The Morgan Library & Museum.

## EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS

The exhibition includes such iconic images as Max in his wolf suit, grinning in his tree-filled bedroom; his arrival in the land of “wild things”; and his triumphant departure by sailboat. Also on view are a pencil drawing for the cover illustration of a sleeping “wild thing” as well as a preliminary sketch—not incorporated into the final published version—of a mischievous Max on all fours atop the dinner table slurping a strand of spaghetti.



“That very night in Max’s room a forest grew / and grew.” Final drawing for *Where the Wild Things Are*. Pen and ink, watercolor. © Maurice Sendak, 1963. All rights reserved.

Drawings on tracing paper show Sendak’s process of transferring preliminary sketches to another sheet for further development, while manuscript drafts offer a window into the author’s composition process. After drafting preliminary text about a boy seeking wild horses, Sendak entreats himself to “Drop this story for time being—I’m forcing it, and it won’t be forced.” After another try at a story about Max and the wild things—in verse—Sendak writes ALL BAD!!! and goes on to refine the story into the text that has become familiar to millions of readers.

## MAURICE SENDAK AND *WILD THINGS*

Since its publication in 1963, *Where the Wild Things Are* has become one of the most beloved of all modern children’s books. Like most of Sendak’s works, it is partly autobiographical, born of long family dinners in 1930s Brooklyn, favorite monster movies from childhood, and a keen understanding of the importance of fantasy as a way to learn and grow. While the book went on to win a Caldecott Award and has been adapted for the stage and now the screen, Sendak’s drawings reveal its most enduring legacy: the ability to convey the innocence and imagination of a child.

“I am delighted that this exhibition is being held at The Morgan Library and Museum,” said Mr. Sendak. “It is an institution I admire, and with which I have had a long association.”

The Morgan held exhibitions of Sendak’s work in 1981 and 1988, and he recently lent original Jean de Brunhoff drawings from his own collection to the Morgan’s 2008 exhibition *Drawing Babar: Early Drafts and Watercolors*.

The works on view in the exhibition from the Rosenbach Museum & Library are part of a group of some ten thousand items by Sendak, including preliminary and finished drawings and manuscripts for over one hundred books, as well as prints, acrylic paintings, hand-made books, publishers’ proofs, first and foreign printed editions, and a wide range of ephemera. It is the largest collection of the artist’s work in the world.

## **CHILDREN’S LITERATURE AT THE MORGAN**

The Morgan’s holdings of children’s literature are rich in American, English, and French books from the mid-eighteenth to the early twentieth centuries and in manuscripts and illustrations of iconic works. Most recently, the Morgan acquired the drafts and drawings for Jean de Brunhoff’s classic story *Histoire de Babar* (1931), which was the subject of a major exhibition, *Drawing Babar*, in 2008. (Like Max in *Wild Things*, Babar visits an unfamiliar land and goes on to rule a kingdom of wild things—in his case, the elephants.) The institution also holds the illustrated manuscripts of Charles Perrault’s *Contes de ma mère l’oye* (Tales of Mother Goose) and William Makepeace Thackeray’s *The Rose and the Ring*, illustrated letters of Beatrix Potter, and the manuscript and drawings for Antoine de Saint Exupéry’s *Little Prince*.

## **OTHER WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE EVENTS AROUND THE CITY**

The Museum of Modern, *Spike Jonze: The First 80 Years*, film retrospective, October 8 -18

New York Public Library, Celebrity Reading, October 13

New York City Film Premiere, Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center, October 13

Animazing Gallery exhibition, *Sendak in SoHo*, from October 1 – November 8.

This exhibition was organized in cooperation with the Rosenbach Museum & Library, Philadelphia.

The Morgan thanks NYC & Company and Warner Bros. for their promotional support of this exhibition.

## **The Morgan Library & Museum**

A complex of buildings in the heart of New York City, The Morgan Library & Museum began as the private library of financier Pierpont Morgan, one of the preeminent collectors and cultural benefactors in the United States. Today it is a museum, independent research library, musical venue, architectural landmark, and historic site. More than a century after its founding, the Morgan maintains a unique position in the cultural life of New York City and is considered one of its greatest treasures. With the 2006 reopening of its newly renovated campus, designed by renowned architect Renzo Piano, the Morgan reaffirmed its role as an important repository for the history, art, and literature of Western civilization from 4000 B.C. to the twenty-first century.

### **General Information**

The Morgan Library & Museum

225 Madison Avenue, at 36th Street, New York, NY 10016-3405

212.685.0008

[www.themorgan.org](http://www.themorgan.org)

### **Hours**

Tuesday–Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; extended Friday hours, 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; closed Mondays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day. The Morgan closes at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve.

### **Admission**

\$12 for adults; \$8 for students, seniors (65 and over), and children (under 16); free to Members and children, 12 and under accompanied by an adult. Admission is free on Fridays from 7 to 9 p.m. Admission is not required to visit the Morgan Shop.