

THE CREATIVE COMPANY



Roberto Innocenti

Born in a small Italian town near Florence in 1940, Roberto Innocenti taught himself the craft of illustration as a young man and has since become one of the world's most recognizable children's book illustrators. His work in such acclaimed picture books as *Rose Blanche*, *Nutcracker*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Last Resort*, and *Erika's Story* has garnered wide critical acclaim and such honors as the 1986 Mildred L. Batchelder Award (*Rose Blanche*) and the Best Foreign Picture Book of 2004 honor from the Japan School Library Association (*Erika's Story*). In 2008, he was awarded the prestigious Hans Christian Andersen Award for his contributions to children's literature. He lives with his wife in Florence.

For more information contact:

Lona Maker

lmaker@thecreativecompany.us

507.388.9207

www.thecreativecompany.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Congratulations to Roberto Innocenti, recipient of the 2008 Hans Christian Andersen Award for Illustration!

In tribute to his lifelong commitment to children's books, celebrated artist Roberto Innocenti was announced as the recipient of the Hans Christian Andersen Award for Illustration at this year's Bologna Children's Book Fair. The award is the highest international distinction given to creators of children's books. Presented by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), it is given every other year to a living author and illustrator whose works have made a lasting contribution to children's literature. (For more information, visit <http://www.ibby.org/index.php?id=845>.)



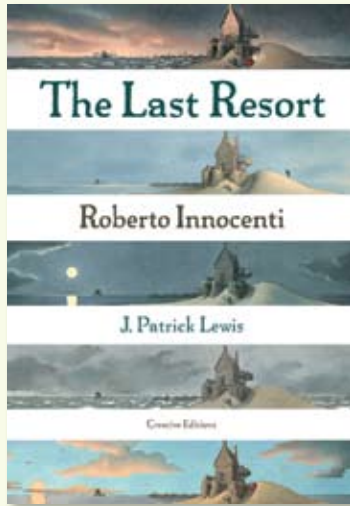
from *Rose Blanche*

In so honoring Mr. Innocenti, the board noted:

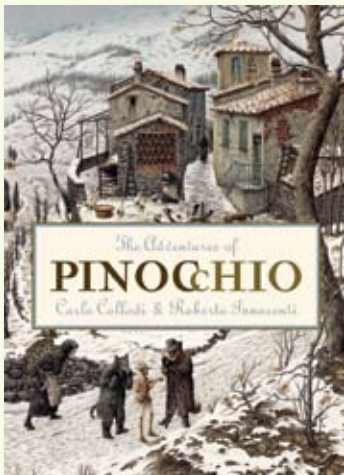
The 2008 Hans Christian Andersen Medal for Illustration recognizes Innocenti as a masterful illustrator who fully depicts various genres. His historical stories of war, specifically the Holocaust, invite young people to speculate about the serious problems of the world. He also portrays classic children's literature from a completely different point of view. His narrative power of the images is over whelming.



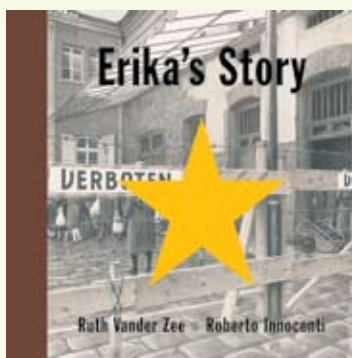
THE CREATIVE COMPANY



The Last Resort



The Adventures of Pinocchio



Erika's Story



forthcoming **The House**

Innocenti's 2005 title *The Adventures of Pinocchio* was hailed as a masterpiece by such reviewers as *The Wall Street Journal*, which noted, "Roberto Innocenti ... should rank as an Italian national treasure." His elegant, timeless style will next be on display in *The House*, a picture book written by renowned children's author J. Patrick Lewis and scheduled for release in 2009. Innocenti and Lewis previously collaborated on 2002's *The Last Resort*, which was named one of *The New York Times Book Review's* Best Illustrated Children's Books of the year.

The Creative Company began in 1932, alongside the Minnesota River. Founded in Mankato, Minnesota, by a visionary named George Peterson, the company was originally named The Creative Educational Society. Producing maps and diagrams for teachers, chalk game sets for children, and a set of rubber stamps known as the Creative Pictured Printer, this initial visual presence adorns and inspires everything Creative continues to produce today. Approaching 3,000 books from three distinct imprints, works from The Creative Company continue their global recognition.