



# Leo Lionni

## Storyteller, Artist, Designer

### Steven Heller

### Stephanie Haboush Plunkett

### Leonard S. Marcus

### Annie Lionni

ISBN	9780789214706
Publisher	Abbeville Press
Binding	Hardback
Territory	World excluding USA, Canada, Puerto Rico, and Australia
Size	279 mm x 228 mm
Pages	240 Pages
Price	£39.95

- The first book to survey the protean career of Leo Lionni (1910–1999): creator of beloved children's books like *Frederick* and *Swimmy*, influential graphic designer and art director of *Fortune* magazine, and fine artist
- Lionni was a "twentieth-century Leonardo," who believed that a smart, pithy visual language could unite people across cultural boundaries
- Edited by Steven Heller, the renowned design writer, and Leonard Marcus, one of the world's leading authorities on children's literature
- Illustrations drawn from Lionni's key works, as well as unseen treasures from the Lionni family archives
- Catalogue of a major touring exhibition that will open at the Norman Rockwell Museum on 18 November 2023

"This beautiful book reminds me that I was one of many whom Leo Lionni took by the hand, leading me into the world of writing and illustrating picture books." — **Micha Archer**, author and illustrator of *Wonder Walkers*, *Daniel Finds a Poem*, and the forthcoming *What's New, Daniel?*

"He had amazing breadth and depth, all on display in this volume." — **Paula Scher**, graphic designer and partner, Pentagram

"Throughout Leo Lionni's varied and eclectic work one can see his wit as well as his mid-century design sensibility; formal and geometric, but softened by his warmth and playfulness..." — **Marc Rosenthal**, *New York Times* bestselling illustrator

"This first survey of Lionni's legacy comes out in conjunction with a retrospective of his work at the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Mass... Lionni had a rare ability to change shades — and retain his signature vibrancy — while moving, seemingly effortlessly, from one realm to another." — **New York Times**

**The first survey of Leo Lionni's protean career as a graphic designer, children's book creator, and fine artist.**

*Between Worlds: The Art and Design of Leo Lionni* opens at the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, MA, on 18 November 2023. Leo Lionni (1910–1999) was a key figure of postwar visual culture, who believed that a smart, pithy design language could unite people across generations and cultural boundaries. He first achieved success in the field of graphic design, serving as the influential art director of *Fortune* magazine from 1948 to 1960 and personally executing such innovative designs as the catalogue for the Museum of Modern Art's seminal photo exhibition *The Family of Man*. Then, in the 1960s, he embarked on an equally groundbreaking career in picture books, using torn-paper collages to illustrate modern animal fables such as *Frederick* and *Swimmy*, which are still beloved today. But even as his books won multiple Caldecott Honors, Lionni — who had begun as a painter — also maintained a fine art practice centered on his *Parallel Botany*, a richly imagined world of fanciful plants. This volume, the catalogue of a major exhibition at the Norman Rockwell Museum, is the first to present Lionni's extraordinary career in the round. Written by leading scholars and with an introduction by the artist's granddaughter, it is illustrated with abundant examples of his work, including many little-seen items from the Lionni family archives. **Leo Lionni: Storyteller, Artist, Designer** will be an important, and eye-opening, contribution to the history of art and design.

**Steven Heller** was an art director at the *New York Times* for 33 years and is co-chair of the MFA Design department at the School of Visual Arts. A widely recognised authority on the history of graphic design, he has written or edited more than 100 books about design and popular culture.

**Stephanie Haboush Plunkett** is Deputy Director and Chief Curator of the Norman Rockwell Museum. **Annie Lionni** is Leo Lionni's granddaughter and the administrator of his work.

**Leonard S. Marcus** is one of the world's preeminent authorities on the history of children's literature. He is the author or editor of more than 25 books on the subject; the curator of numerous important exhibitions, including the New York Public Library's landmark show *The ABC of It: Why Children's Books Matter*, and a founding trustee of the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art.

