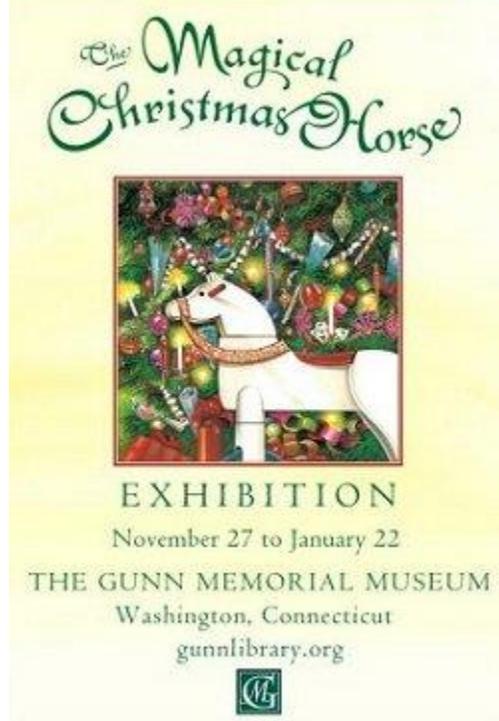


The Magical Christmas Horse — November 2011 to January 2012

For this holiday show, Museum visitors were introduced to the new children's book of the same name by best-selling author Mary Higgins Clark and award-winning artist Wendell Minor. The setting of [*The Magical Christmas Horse*](#) is based on the historic 1746 Averill Farm in Washington, Connecticut and the Gunn Museum's toy horse is the inspiration behind this enchanting Christmas story.



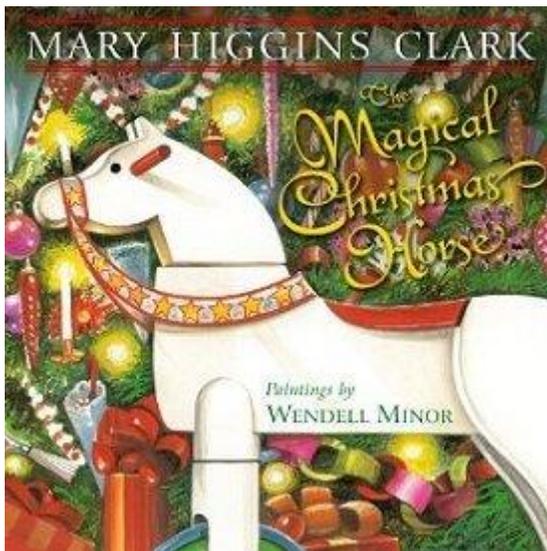
This exhibition featured Wendell Minor's original works of art from *The Magical Christmas Horse*, along with whimsical displays of spectacular toy horses of all shapes and sizes from the collection of the Gunn Museum and area residents. Designer Chris Zaima with the collaboration of John Pitts, the former scenic artist at The Metropolitan Opera in New York City, captured the holiday spirit for this exhibit.

[Mary Higgins Clark](#) is the beloved and world-wide bestselling author of thirty suspense novels, three collections of short stories, a historical novel, and a memoir. In the U.S. alone, her books have sold over one hundred million copies. She is also the coauthor with her daughter, Carol Higgins Clark, of five holiday suspense novels.

[Wendell Minor](#) is the award-winning illustrator of more than fifty picture books, including the New York Times bestselling picture books *Reaching for the Moon* and *Look to the Stars*, written by astronaut Buzz Aldrin. Mr. Minor's work can be found in the permanent collections of such institutions as the Norman Rockwell Museum and the Library of Congress. He lives with his wife Florence, in Washington, Connecticut, where this story is set.

Following the success of their New York Times bestselling picture book, *Ghost Ship*, author Mary Higgins Clark teamed up once again with long-time friend and artist, Wendell Minor, who originally created the cover art for Clark's first classic, *Where are the Children?*

The setting of the book is based on Averill Farm here in Washington, Connecticut that has been passed down through nine generations. Wendell's captivating paintings create the backdrop for Clark's superior storytelling, making *The Magical Christmas Horse* a book that captures the true heart of the holidays, and one that families will make part of their Christmas tradition year after year. The Museum still has signed copies of the book available for sale.



Book Talk & Signing with Wendell Minor & Mary Higgins Clark — December 10, 2011

The Museum hosted a book signing and short reading with beloved best-selling author, Mary Higgins Clark and award-winning artist, Wendell Minor as they shared their latest collaborative work, [*The Magical Christmas Horse*](#). After the book signing, visitors enjoyed the holiday exhibit featuring Mr. Minor's original works of art from this book, along with the Museum's toy horse that was the inspiration behind this wonderful Christmas story.

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