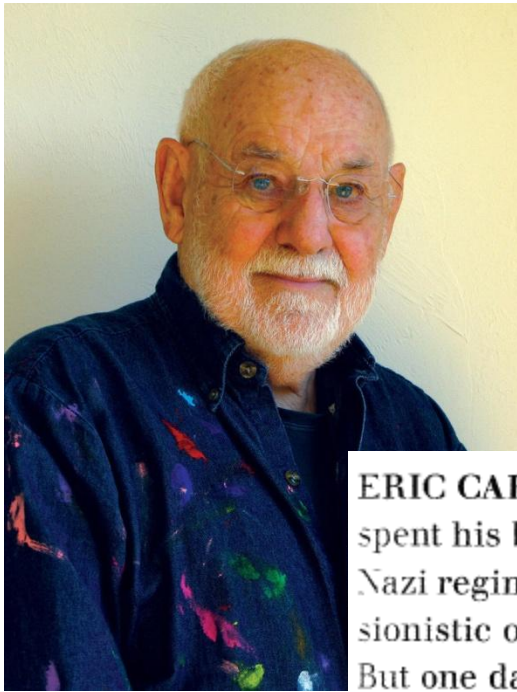


Eric Carle, The Artist Who Painted a Blue Horse



ERIC CARLE was born in the United States in 1929 but spent his boyhood in Germany. At that time, the repressive Nazi regime forbade creating or displaying modern, expressionistic or abstract art, which they called “degenerate.” But one day, when Eric was twelve or thirteen years old, his art teacher, Herr Krauss, secretly showed him some of the forbidden art. “I like the freedom and the looseness in the way you draw and paint,” he said, “but I am only permitted to teach realistic art.” And, pointing to the reproductions, he went on: “Just look at the looseness, the freedom and—ah!—the *beauty* of these paintings. The Nazis have no idea what art is; they are charlatans!” At first young Eric was shocked by the art and feared that Herr Krauss had gone mad. Now Eric says, “My green lion, polka-dotted donkey and other animals painted in the ‘wrong’ colors were really born that day seventy years ago.”