

**2020 New England SCBWI Conference**  
**Finding Joy in the Journey**  
**Friday, May 1 – Sunday, May 3, 2020**

**ILLUSTRATION CHALLENGE AND**  
**R. MICHELSON GALLERIES EMERGING ARTIST AWARD**

**ILLUSTRATION CHALLENGE**

In keeping with our theme, *Finding Joy in the Journey*, we invite you to enter the Illustration Challenge. Your artwork will be displayed in the 3rd floor hallway all day Saturday, May 2nd for everyone to see. This is a great portfolio building exercise and a wonderful promotional opportunity.

*In addition, Rich Michelson will choose an artist (**PRE-published** and a **New England SCBWI member**) from this assignment for the R. Michelson Galleries Emerging Artist Award, which is inclusion in the annual Children's Book Illustration show in November. The R. Michelson Galleries Award competition is open to all NESCBWI Illustrators who are pre-published and attending the conference.*

*The Illustration Challenge, however, will be open to all SCBWI members attending the conference.*

**NOTE:**

**You do **NOT** need to participate in the Illustration Challenge in order to apply for the award.**

**CHALLENGE:**

This year's challenge is to illustrate the 1st stanza from Margarita Engel's poem, *Tula*.

*Books are door-shaped  
portals  
carrying me  
across oceans  
and centuries,  
helping me feel  
less alone.*

Interpret it any way you like using characters from your imagination or favorite fairy tale. Anything goes as long as it is kid-through-teen friendly. Create an engaging and creative image!

### **DETAILS:**

- Your illustration must be 16" wide x 10" high, the size of an 8" x 10" double-page spread.
- Medium of your choice.
- The text is optional but should be included if necessary to understand the scene.
- Only copies are acceptable. NO ORIGINAL ART PLEASE.
- **Mount the illustration on a piece of foam core board so it is self-standing, or bring a table easel for display.**
- The mounting board should be an inch larger than the artwork on all sides (18" x 12") to create a white border. You may sign or label your piece in this area.
- You may leave a combination of business cards and postcards but no more than 3 items.
- We will accept posters for **drop off** on Saturday morning between **7:30 and 8:30 am** at a table near the ballroom entrance. Posters will be on display until 3:30 pm on Saturday, May 2, 2020. **Illustrations must be picked up by 3:30 PM.** No artwork may be left after 3:30 pm as **this space will be used for another event.** Please pick up your illustration promptly. [There is a coffee break from 3:00 until 3:30 that afternoon, so that gives you ample time to collect your poster!]

### **NOTE:**

- When you register online for the Illustration Challenge, you **MUST** accept the electronic [Illustration Challenge Release](#). NO ENTRIES will be accepted that morning if you have not previously signed up, accepted a release, or been told you are off the waitlist.

### **BONUS:**

The Illustration Challenge has been designed as a portfolio building exercise. To that end, we invite you to send your initial sketch in **by March 30, 2020**, for a **critique by a professional illustrator**. They'll provide feedback about what's working, what's not and possible areas for improvement. This critique is provided gratis by volunteers, and is not mandatory to participate in the challenge. But it is our hope that those of you who need or want a little extra help will take advantage of this opportunity. [centralic@nescbwi.org](mailto:centralic@nescbwi.org).

## R. MICHELSON EMERGING ARTIST AWARD CHALLENGE

The challenge for the R. Michelson Emerging Artist Award will be the same as the Illustration Challenge (see above). To be considered for the R. Michelson Emerging Artist Award, send ONE jpg with your challenge image—between 800 and 2000 pixels on the longest side, (5 MB limit). Include your name, title of piece, size, medium and contact info on the piece, and save your file like this: EAA\_lastname\_firstname.jpg in the title. Send to this email address: [SCBWI@RMichelson.com](mailto:SCBWI@RMichelson.com), **April 13th deadline.** **You must be a PRE-published New England SCBWI member and attend the conference to enter.** The award will be announced Sunday, May 3rd.

**NOTE:** Only **PRE-published New England SCBWI member** illustrators will be considered for this award.

The winner will have their piece displayed at the R. Michelson Galleries Annual Illustration Celebration alongside work by gallery artists such as Jarrett Krossocka, Mo Willems, Jerry Pinkney, Jon J Muth, Ruth Sanderson, Barbara McClintock, Marc Brown, Eric Carle, Barry Moser, Raul Colon, Tony DiTerlizzi, Wendell Minor, Diane DeGroat, and the list goes on.

**Questions?** Email the Challenge coordinators, [centralic@nescbwi.org](mailto:centralic@nescbwi.org) or Russ Cox at [northic@nescbwi.org](mailto:northic@nescbwi.org).

**NOTE:**

**You do NOT need to participate in the Illustration Challenge in order to apply for the award.**