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800 Vine Street
Cincinnati, Ohio
45202-2071

Richard L. Helmes
Phone•513•369•6959
Fax•513•369•4565
rick.helmes@cincinnati.library.org
or
Phyllis Hegner
Phone•513•369•4571
Fax•513•369•4565

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***C.F. Payne Illustrates Casey at the Bat* on Display at the Main Library Gallery Talk & Walk on Saturday, July 19, 1:00 p.m.**

On June 3, 1888, a poem that went virtually unnoticed appeared on page four of the *Daily Examiner of San Francisco*. It was written by "Phin," a pseudonym used by Ernest L. Thayer. Later that same year, De Wolf Hopper, a comic actor, recited the poem on stage. The poem was so popular that Hopper eventually recited it more than 10,000 times. To this day, the poem, *Casey at the Bat, A Ballad of the Republic*, has become legendary. Local illustrator C. F. Payne brings the poem alive again with his illustrations of the classic American tale in *Casey at the Bat: A Ballad of the Republic Sung in the Year 1888*, and is currently exhibiting his work in the Main Library's Art & Music Department, 800 Vine Street, through August 29.

C.F. (Chris) Payne grew up with baseball and grew up with *Casey at the Bat*. Being asked to illustrate this great American tale has been "one of the great pleasures of my professional career, but it was also one of my biggest challenges," he said. With the help of a dear friend Jay Bauer, who posed for the photos that became his inspiration for Casey, he created this body of work. By juxtaposing finished illustrations with photographs of the models he worked from for this classic poem, his exhibit, *C.F. Payne Illustrates Casey at the Bat*, clearly shows the illustrator's working process.

Mr. Payne, who graduated from Miami University in Ohio with a BFA, has developed an impressive client list, including *Time*, *Rolling Stone*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Esquire*, *GQ*, *National Geographic*, *Spy*, *NFL*, *U.S. Postal Service*, and others. His awards include gold and silver medals, as well as the Gold Funny Bone from the New York Society of Illustrators, Society of Illustrators Los Angeles, Communication Arts, and Print Magazine. He has taught at East Texas State University and Miami University

of Ohio. He lives in Mason with his wife, Paula, and their sons Trevor and Evan.

C. F. Payne to Discuss the Art of Illustrating and Present Gallery Walk July 19

C. F. Payne will present a talk, *The World of Today's Illustrator*, along with slides of his work through the years on Saturday, July 19 (1:00 p.m.) at the Main Library in the Huenefeld Tower Room (3rd floor, south building). The program will be followed by a gallery walk of his work currently on display.

- ✓ **Information about programs and services of the Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County is available on our web site: www.CincinnatiLibrary.org**