

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April, 2013

Contact: Christine Alfano

Administrator – 612-925-1284

2013 MARION VANNETT RIDGWAY AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Creators of two picture books are recognized for debut work excellence

The Winners of the 2013 Marion Vannett Ridgway Award:

First Prize: Author Karina Wolf and Illustrators Ben and Sean Hilts for *The Insomniacs*, (Penguin Books for Young Readers, 2012). Karina Wolf and the Brothers Hilts tell a sweetly dark tale of a family who, having moved “twelve time-zones away”, come to terms with their mixed-up body clocks by embracing insomnia, waking up when the sun goes down. The brighter side of night is cleverly revealed in this story—the moody scenarios’ rich warmth surfaces in the blues and browns of the Hilts’ charcoal, pencil, and digital illustrations. Each page offers delightful variation: white dotted lines to spot detail here, a page divided into many frames there, or a dramatic two-page spread with the startling rush of bats! Karina Wolf’s language is poetic, her story original and family-friendly. The book’s creators lavish attention on actual night-thriving plants, animals, and places. By story’s end, muted yellow daylight feels *way* too bright – along with the *Insomniacs*, readers have been swept into the beauty and possibility of nocturnal life.

Honor Award: Illustrator Christian Robinson for *Harlem’s Little Blackbird*, (Random House, Inc., 2012). Christian Robinson’s bold, bright cut-paper and paint illustrations open the gate for very young readers into the life of Harlem-born performer Florence Mills. Robinson knows how to visually construct a narrative, working beautifully with pattern, texture, color and the occasional flourish of an embroidered blossom. His deft work touches the heart—helping children to comprehend the hurdles that Mills faced during her lifetime, as well as engaging them in her success through his emotionally energetic artwork.

Each year the Marion Vannett Ridgway Award is given in honor of outstanding work by first time children’s book illustrators or authors. Established in 1993, this unique award celebrates the memory of the artist’s representative Marion Vannett Ridgway, who showed a devotion to talented newcomers. The Ridgway Award is given with the spirit of encouragement for those making their way into the world of picture book creation. Over twenty children’s book publishers participated in this year’s contest, and the judging panel included award-winning children’s book authors and illustrators Lauren Stringer, Antoinette Portis, Jim Averbeck, Darren Farrell and Susan Marie Swanson.

For more information, visit the Ridgway Award website:

www.marionvannettridgwayaward.com

###