## **Arts & Entertainment**

## Millburn Artist Illustrates A Children's Book



Amarna Books and Media

By ELISE PHILLIPS MARGULIS Published November 11, 2021 at 2:01 AM Last Updated November 11, 2021 at 2:03 AM

Millburn resident Amir Achitoov creates fine art that has been exhibited in Israel, Holland and New York City. Recently, a children's book that he illustrated was published.

"The Mice Who Came to Story Time" was written by Maplewood teacher and author Claire Sinclair. She met Achitoov through her publisher, Tom West of Amarna Books and Media.

Although Achitoov has illustrated other books, this is the first to be published. He shared, "I have been drawing and painting for as far back as I can remember, but this is my first experience illustrating a published book. I truly enjoy drawing for children!"

Achitoov, who studied art in Holland and New York, was an art director for commercial printers and now describes himself as "a freelance graphic designer who utilizes my fine art skills as much as possible." He refers to oil and pastels as his "happy mediums."

When asked what he'd like others to know about the book, he responded, "If you are not afraid of mice (and even if you are, a little) you might be able to enjoy those creatures that share our habitats." He added, "It is also a good study into our concept of the world around us and how we respond to it. Those little rodents can be a metaphor for any fears we might have and how to face them."

Sinclair, a kindergarten teacher at Tuscon Elementary School in Maplewood, has been teaching for 25 years. As a lover of children's books who has spent hours reading them to her students, she was inspired to write the book by the mice who actually appeared in her classroom several times. She currently teaches in the classroom in which she attended kindergarten.

The book is available on Amazon, and Sinclair and Achitoov will be signing books Friday, November 26th from noon to 4:00 p.m. at <u>WNTR</u>: Holiday Village and Makers Market on Springfield Avenue in Maplewood.

They will also sign books on Saturday, November 27 at the South Orange Downtown <u>Open-Air Holiday Market</u> from 10 a.m. till 3 p.m.