



Robin Brickman

"I love to see nature around me, either in my backyard in the Berkshires, or when I travel."

For nearly 30 years, Robin Brickman's affinity for natural science and art has culminated in realistic illustrations like those found in *One Night in the Coral Sea* and *Beaks!*

Robin, who studied botany and graphic arts at Bennington College in Vermont, creates her three-dimensional sculpted illustrations the old-fashioned way: no computers—just scissors, glue, paint, and paper. "I'm hands-oriented," she says. As a child, Robin learned to knit and embroider. Her love for crafts eventually led her to paper-making, book-binding, and even jewelry-making. All these skills come together when Robin designs 3-D sculptures for children's picture-book illustrations. "I am very much a self-starter, and that's been the key to the art that I do. I've had to reinvent myself as an artist time and again."

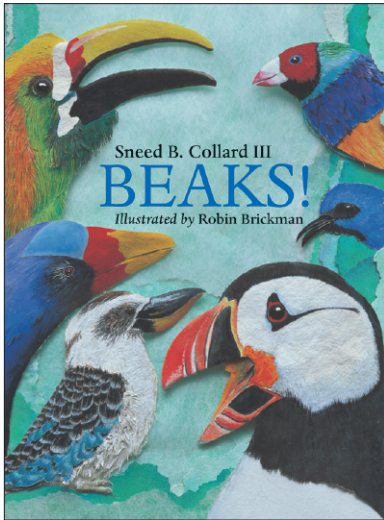
Her innovative illustrations entail a painstaking process of sketching, cutting, painting, gluing, and shaping. The finished 3-D sculptures are then photographed and used as illustrations. But before she picks up her scissors, Robin must pick up a reference book. "I start with a real scientific creature and then add fantasy." Extensive research is the secret behind her breathtaking illustrations. She supplements her extensive collection of reference books with photographs she has collected from magazines and with her own observations of real-life bugs, birds, and other animals and plants in nature. Sometimes, if she finds a well-preserved dead animal or insect, she'll take it home and keep it for future reference.

Robin lives with her husband and two teenage sons in Williamstown, Massachusetts.

Visit Robin online at <http://www.robinbrickman.com>.



Books Illustrated by Robin Brickman



1-57091-387-0 \$16.95, HC

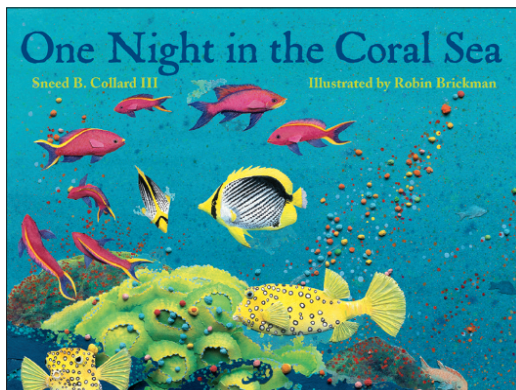
Beaks!

Written by Sneed B. Collard III

- A Junior Library Guild Selection
- IRA Teachers' Choices

“The choice of artist was truly brilliant. . . She provides spectacular watercolor and cut-paper collages that not only complement the text, but should cause gasps of wonder.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*



1-57091-389-7 \$15.95, HC

One Night in the Coral Sea

Written by Sneed B. Collard III

“[Children] will be captivated by Brickman’s realistic, astonishingly detailed colored-paper collages of the brilliant underwater world. A closing image of a silvery moon illuminating dolphins splashing through a placid sea extends the shivery sense of mysterious, fascinating life teeming beneath the surface.”

—*Booklist*

A Visit with Robin Brickman

Learn to be a 3-D artist, too! Through hands-on workshops, Robin demonstrates and encourages students to see the connection between art and science. Workshops include:

- Make a Mural: Plan and create a community mural based on *One Night in the Coral Sea*
- Make a Beak Out of Paper: Learn about the amazing shapes of bird beaks and why they look the way they do. You can even get a chance to make a beak mask of your own.
- Make a Picture Book (Grade 1 and up): Plan a picture book based on your name. Give your name new meaning by illustrating it one letter at a time with a picture relating to that letter.

Robin explains how she plans a scientific picture book and demonstrates her distinctive artwork. Because she plans each visit individually, Robin welcomes all ages and skill levels. Supplies needed include white and colored paper, scissors, crayons, pencils, markers, and white glue. Parent volunteers are welcome.

To arrange a visit, contact Janet Zade by phone at (781) 749-2733 or by email at news4jaz@aol.com.
Or call Charlesbridge at (800) 225-3214, ext. 122.