



Quentin Blake: Arrows of Love

At House of Illustration's Quentin Blake Gallery
14 February – 29 April 2018

An exhibition of Quentin Blake's rarely-seen nudes



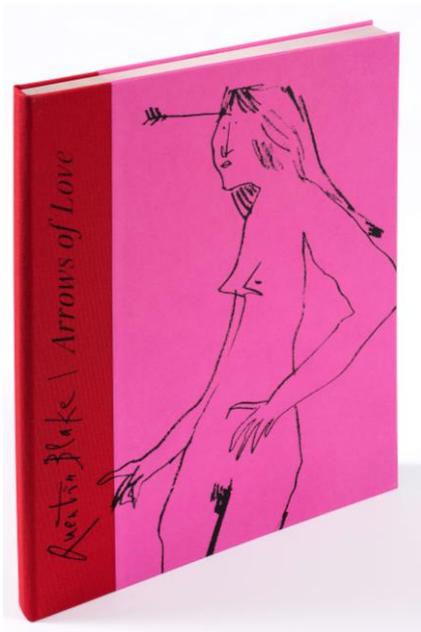
On Valentine's Day House of Illustration will open an exhibition of Quentin Blake's rarely-seen nudes, some exhibited for the first time.

The exhibition will show 18 original pencil drawings done in the 1970s, depicting women avoiding or embracing Cupid's arrow. Selected by Blake from his personal archive they show his masterful depiction of gesture and emotion, and reveal his light-hearted reflections on the joy, folly and sorrow of love.

The Quentin Blake Gallery at House of Illustration is the permanent gallery of the UK's most celebrated illustrator. Changing exhibitions are drawn from Blake's own collection as well as his unparalleled personal archive of over 35,000 works, offering a unique insight into his contribution to art, education and public life, as well as his own creative practice.

House of Illustration Curator, Olivia Ahmad, said: "Cupid is the classical god of love, always armed with a bow and arrow, and anyone struck by this arrow is filled with an uncontrollable desire. Quentin Blake plays with this idea in this series of works. In his drawings we have to imagine that Cupid is 'off-stage', outside of the frame of the picture, shooting arrows towards unsuspecting people. Some of them rush out of the firing line (perhaps they've been in love before and things haven't gone well), others willingly throw themselves into its path. Some that have been hit look forlorn, some are stunned and others are joyful. These figures are symbolic of the different ways we all experience love – from the pain of rejection to the excitement of a new romance."

Quentin Blake said: "Technically speaking we have to say that these women are in the nude, but in fact they have never had any clothes. Each of them is an outline, an economical way to depict the shapes and gestures that tell us what they are feeling."



The exhibition will be accompanied by a beautiful, limited edition hardback catalogue. The catalogue has a screen-printed cover and contains 28 previously unpublished drawings across 64 pages, as well as an introduction written by Quentin Blake. Available for £19.95 from House of Illustration's independent shop, at the gallery and online: <http://shop.houseofillustration.org.uk/product/arrows-of-love>

CONTACT DETAILS

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IMAGE CREDITS

Arrows of Love © Quentin Blake

LISTINGS INFORMATION

Quentin Blake: Arrows of Love

14 February – 29 April 2018

Quentin Blake Gallery at House of Illustration, 2 Granary Square, King's Cross, London N1C 4BH

Open Tuesday-Sunday 10am-6pm (closed Monday)

Admission (one ticket gives admission to all three galleries) £8.25 inc gift aid

020 3696 2020, houseofillustration.org.uk, [facebook.com/houseofillustration](https://www.facebook.com/houseofillustration), [@illustrationHQ](https://twitter.com/illustrationHQ)

Exhibitions currently on:

[Gerald Scarfe: Stage and Screen](#) (until 10 February 2018)

[Quentin Blake & John Yeoman: 50 Years of Children's Books](#) (until 4 February 2018)

[Lucinda Rogers: On Gentrification](#) (until 25 March 2018)

NOTES TO EDITORS

House of Illustration is the UK's only public gallery dedicated solely to illustration and graphic art. Founded by Sir Quentin Blake it opened in July 2014 in King's Cross, London. Its exhibition programme explores both historic and contemporary illustration and the work of defining and emerging illustrators, amplified by a vibrant programme of talks and events. A registered charity, House of Illustration supports and promotes new talent, commissions new work and has a pioneering learning programme for children, young people, adults and families delivered by professional illustrators. houseofillustration.org.uk