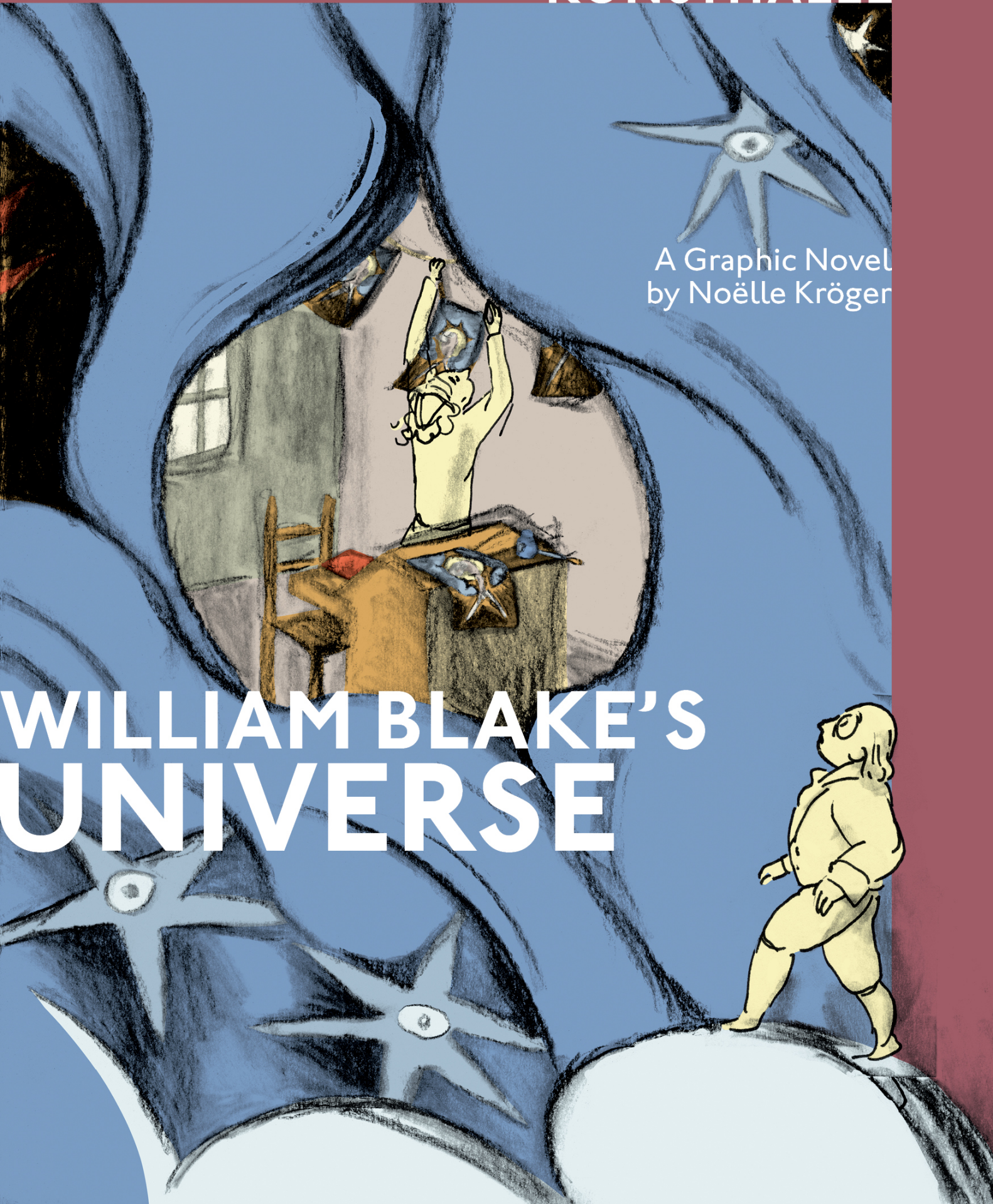


HAMBURGER
KUNSTHALLE

A Graphic Novel
by Noëlle Kröger

WILLIAM BLAKE'S
UNIVERSE





Welcome to William Blake's universe!

But now who actually was William Blake?

This is a graphic novel by Noëlle Kröger (*1997) about the nonconformist and talented artist and poet who lived and worked in London from 1757 to 1827. We invite you to immerse yourself in his story and get to know Blake as a person and artist of his time.

What is your impression of William Blake in the graphic novel? And how do you see him through his art in this exhibition? Does your view and perception of Blake's paintings change after you have learned more about him?

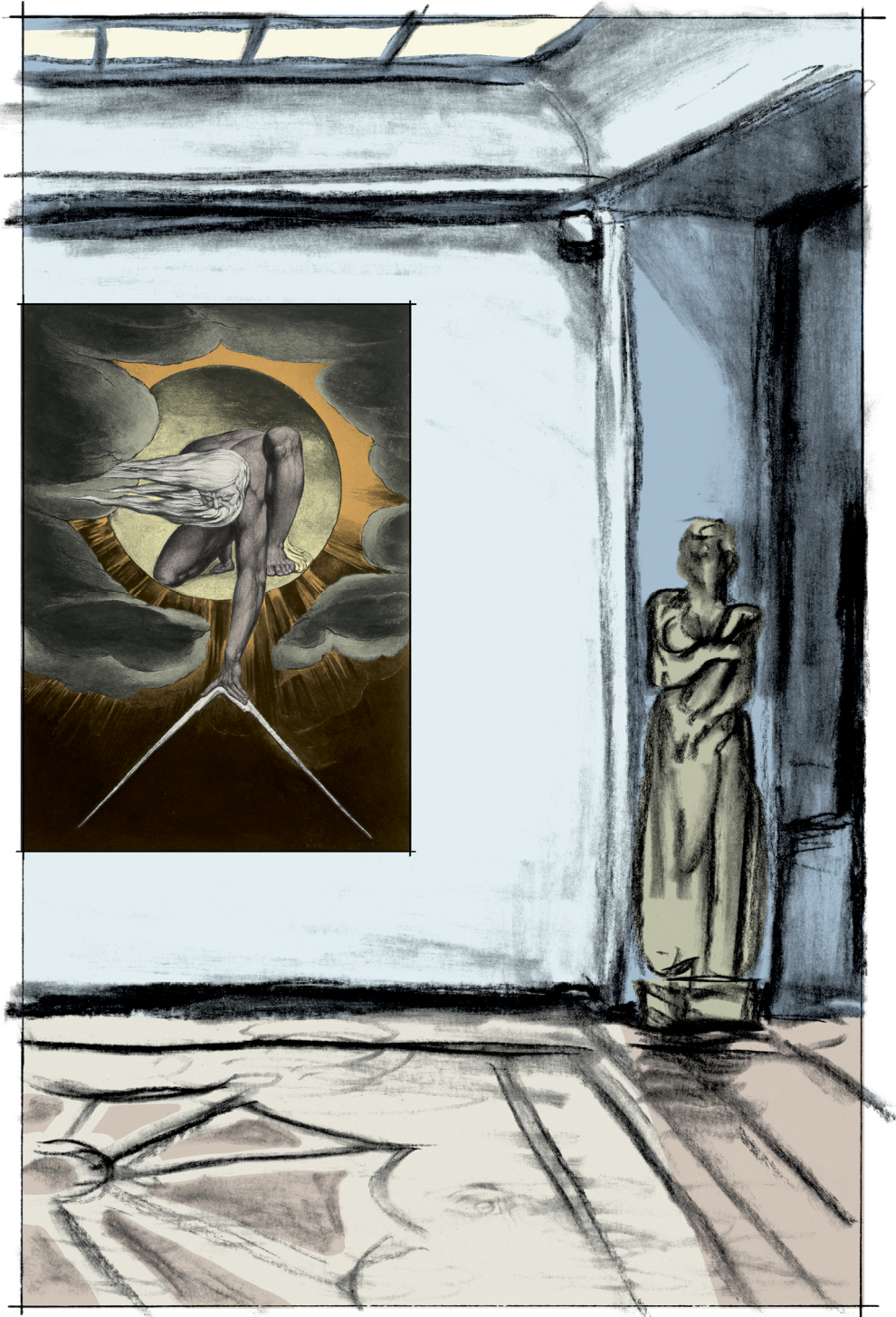
Would you like to find out more about the various works of art? Then use the free audio guide for adults and children in the Hamburger Kunsthalle app! Here, the variable fantasy creature Los, who originates from Blake's work and gives artists their power of imagination, accompanies you through the exhibition. In some of the artworks, you can see Los in one of the forms in which he appeared to Blake.

Have fun discovering, experiencing and exploring Blake's universe!



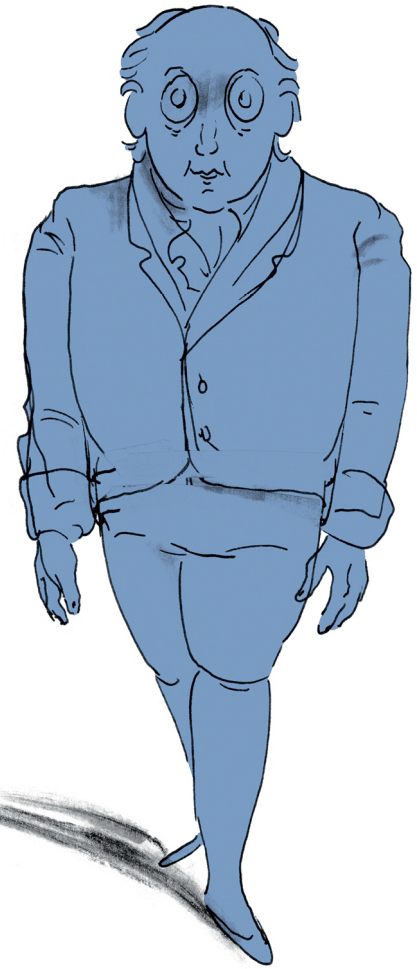
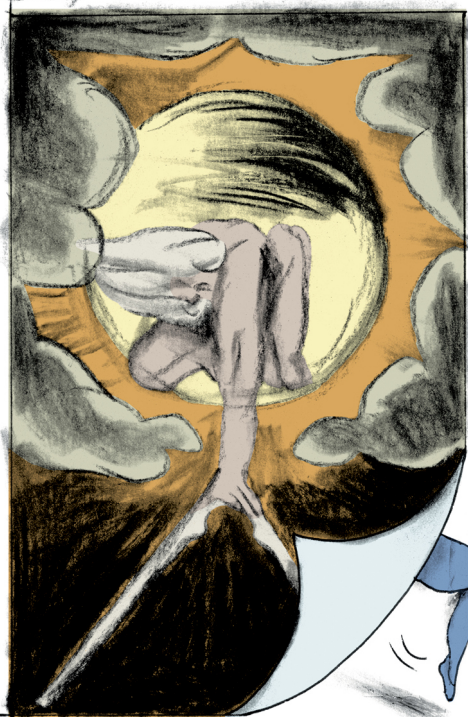
A Graphic Novel
by Noëlle Kröger

WILLIAM BLAKE'S UNIVERSE

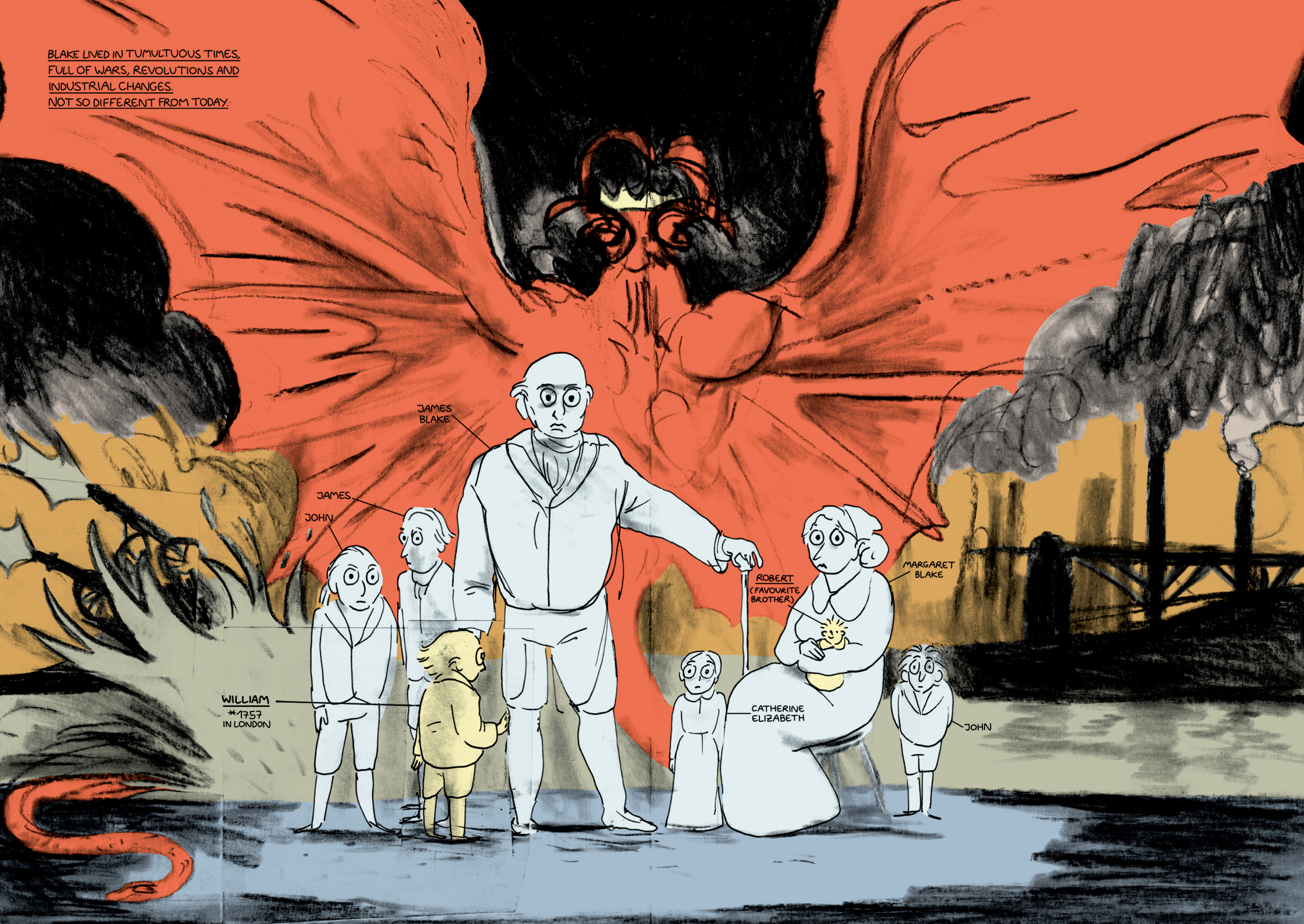




RUSTLING
CLEARING
THROAT



BLAKE LIVED IN TUMULTUOUS TIMES,
FULL OF WARS, REVOLUTIONS AND
INDUSTRIAL CHANGES.
NOT SO DIFFERENT FROM TODAY.



JAMES
BLAKE

JAMES
JOHN

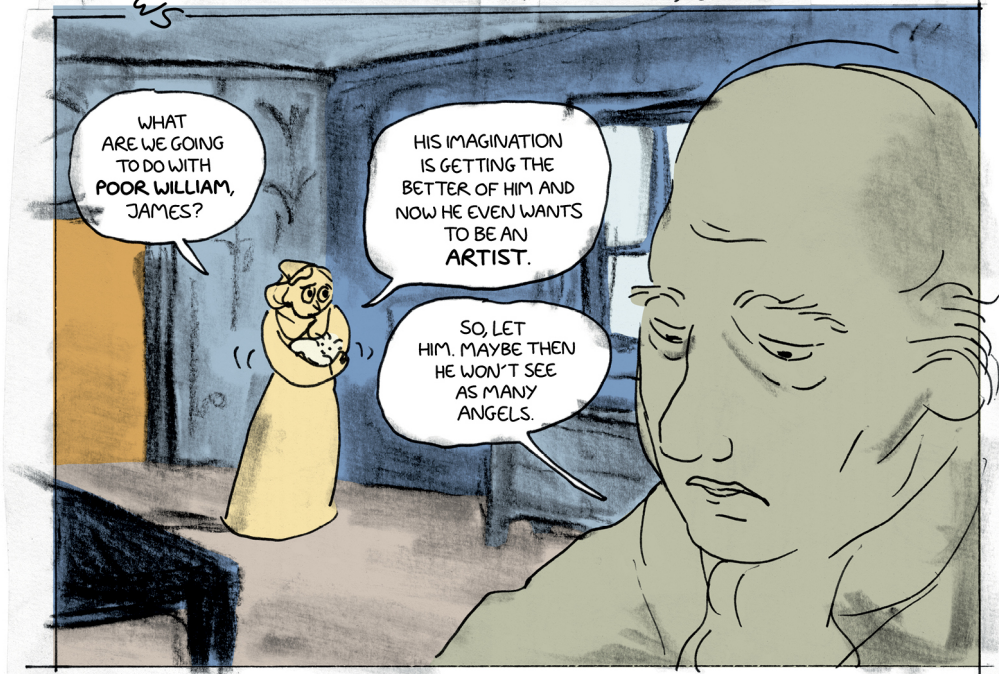
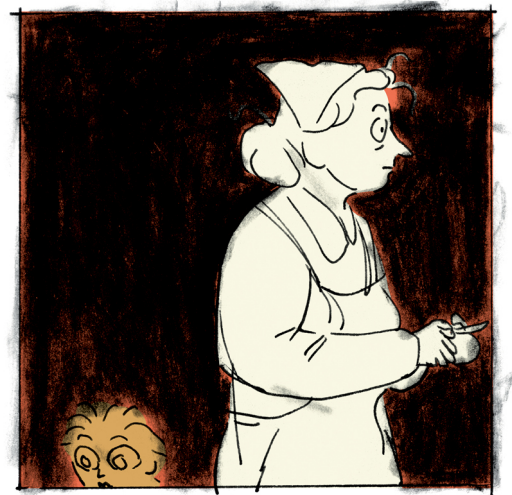
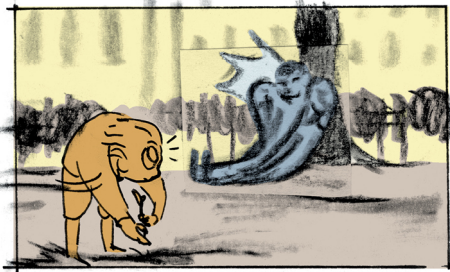
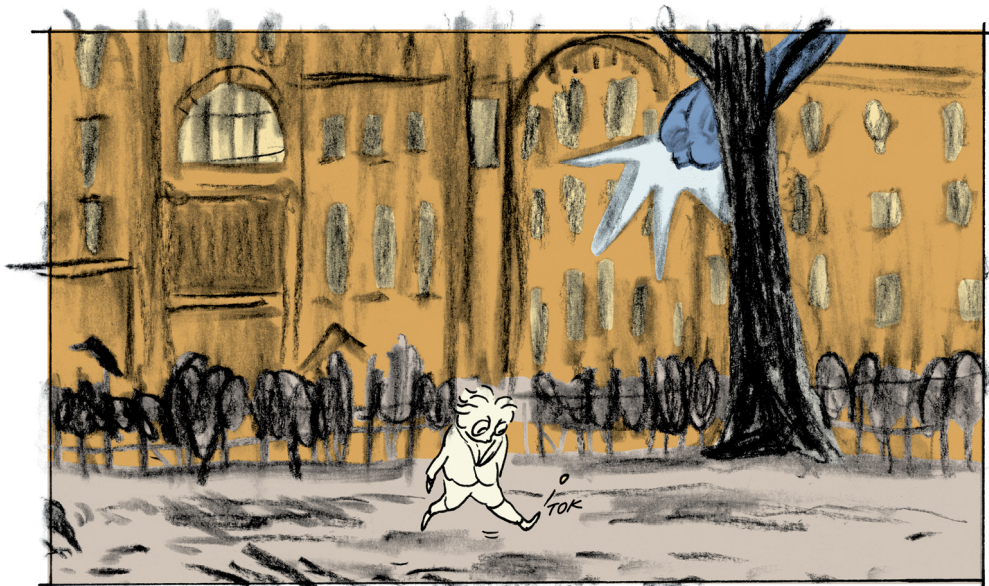
WILLIAM
*1757
IN LONDON

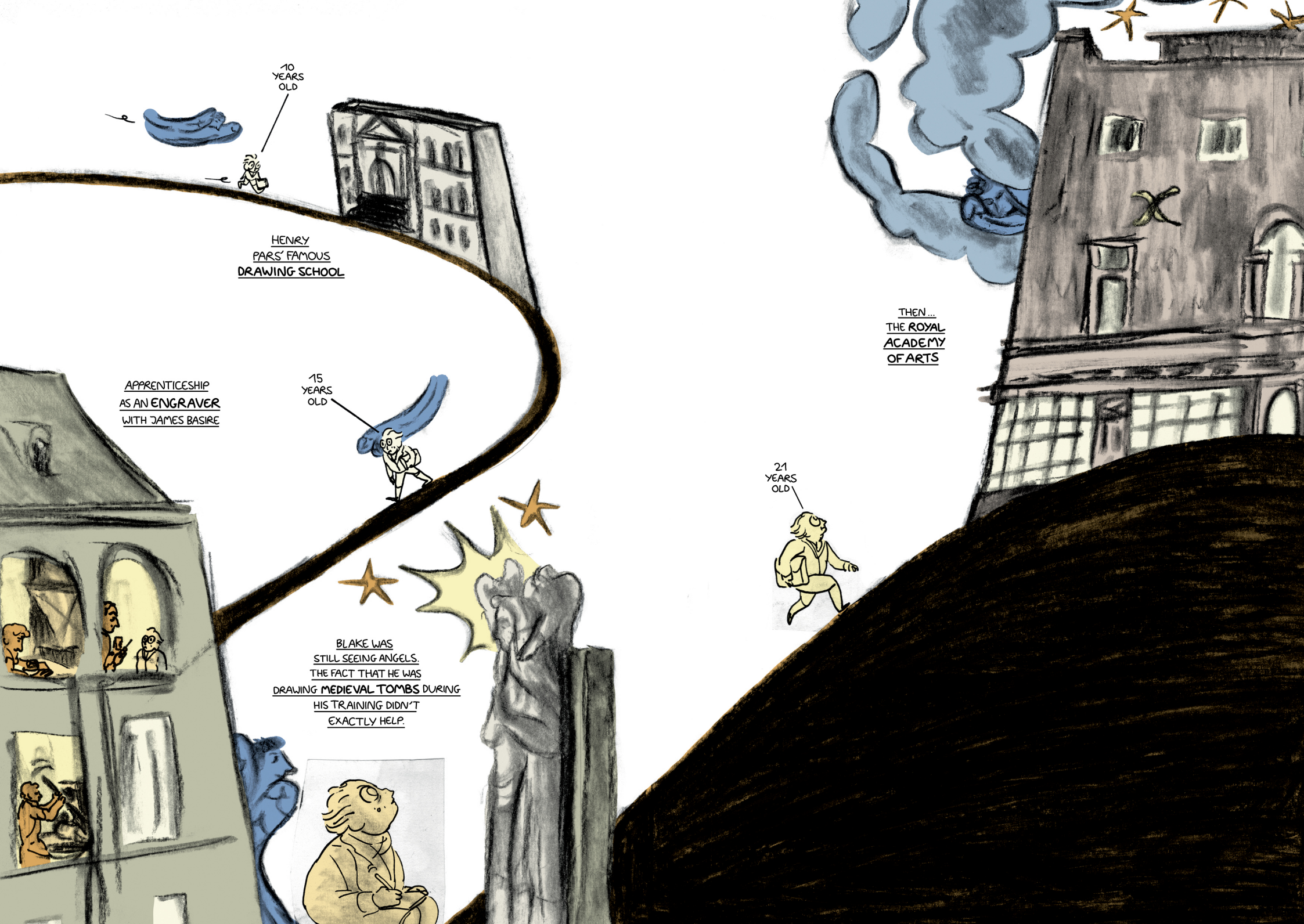
ROBERT
(FAVOURITE
BROTHER)

MARGARET
BLAKE

CATHERINE
ELIZABETH

JOHN





10
YEARS
OLD

HENRY
PARS' FAMOUS
DRAWING SCHOOL

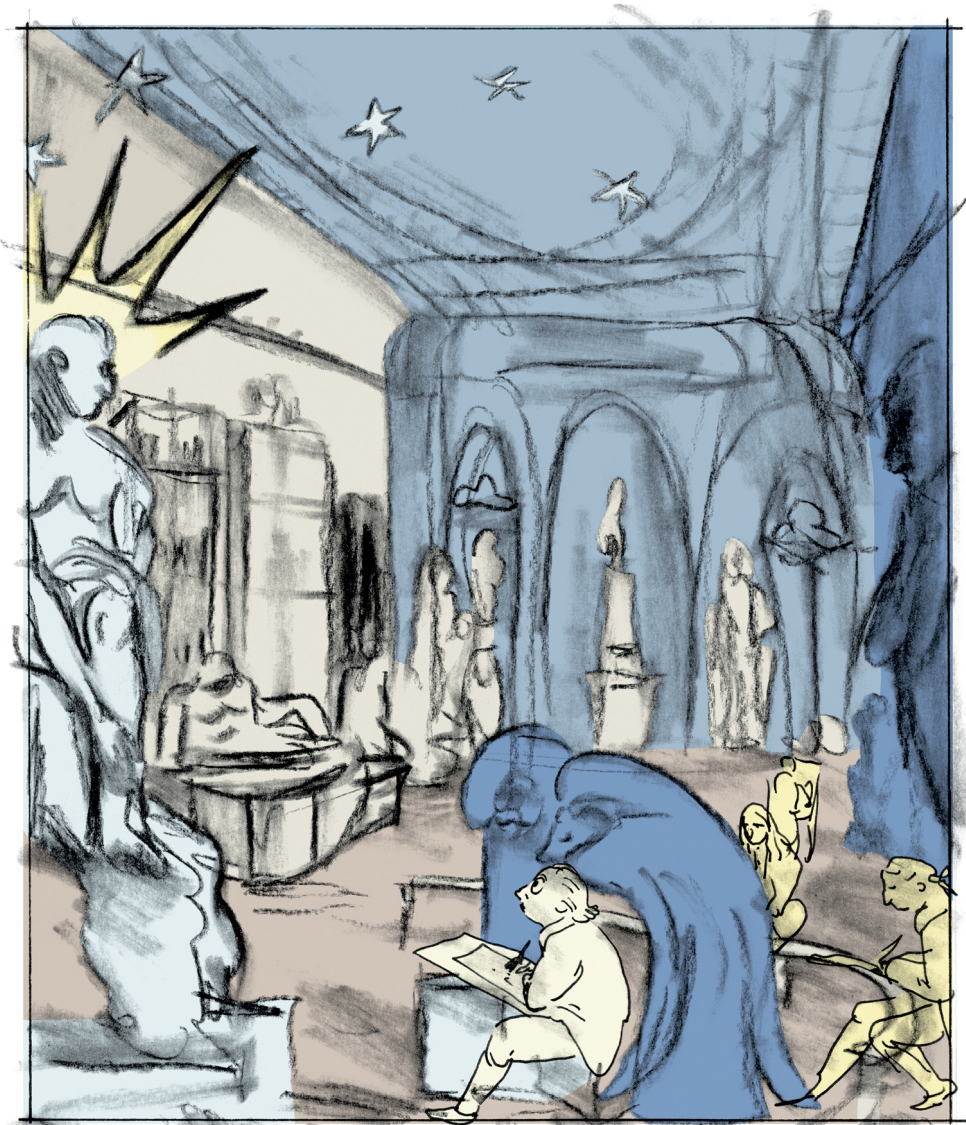
APPRENTICESHIP
AS AN ENGRAVER
WITH JAMES BASIRE

15
YEARS
OLD

BLAKE WAS
STILL SEEING ANGELS.
THE FACT THAT HE WAS
DRAWING MEDIEVAL TOMBS DURING
HIS TRAINING DIDN'T
EXACTLY HELP.

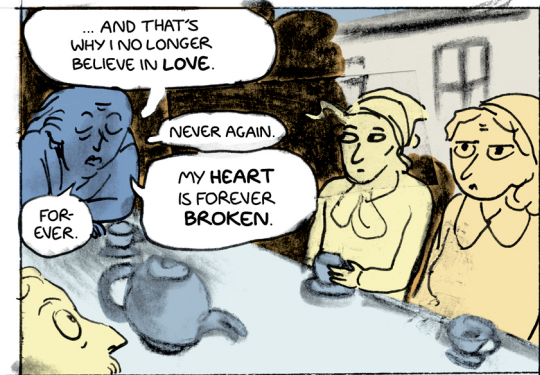
21
YEARS
OLD

THEN...
THE ROYAL
ACADEMY
OF ARTS

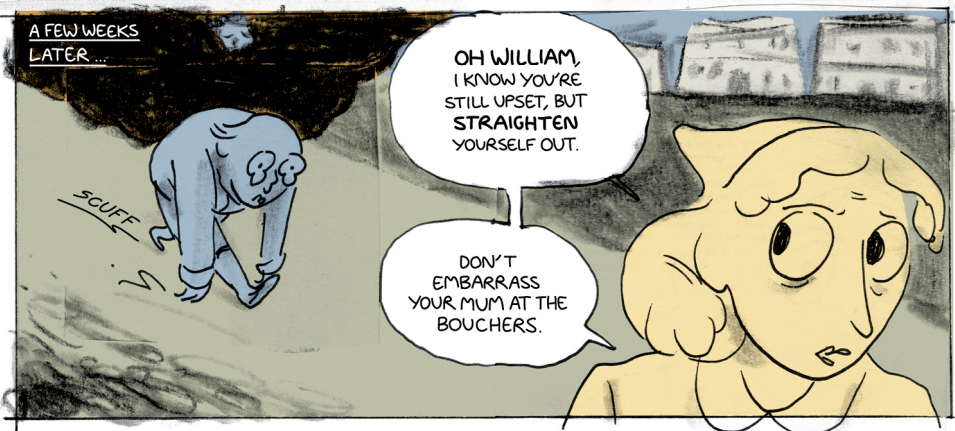
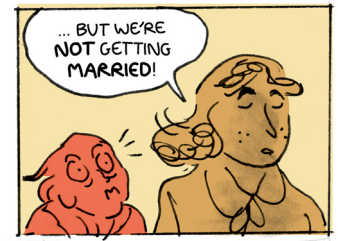




JOHN AND WILLIAM REMAINED FRIENDS FOR LIFE.



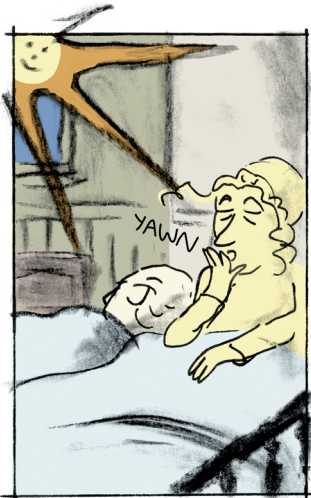
ELSEWHERE, BLAKE HAD LESS LUCK TO START WITH.



A FEW WEEKS LATER...

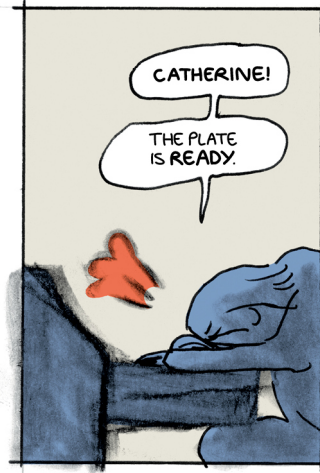


WILLIAM BLAKE AND CATHERINE BOUCHER MARRIED ON 18 AUGUST 1782.



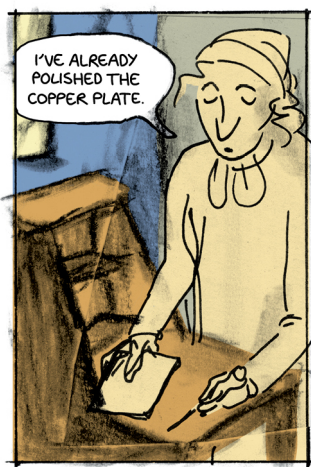
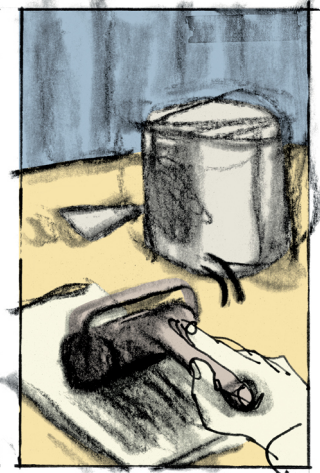
CAN WE GET THE COMMISSION DONE TODAY?

SURE.



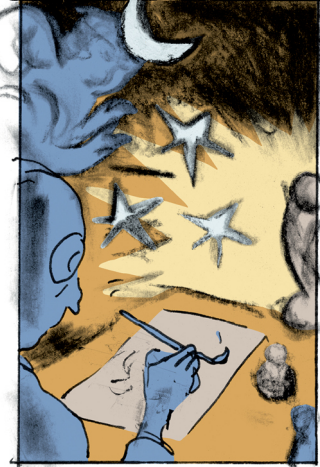
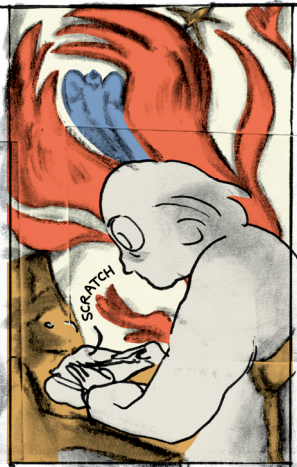
I'LL PRINT IT STRAIGHT AWAY.

HM.



THANK YOU.

YOU'RE WELCOME. I'LL COLOUR YESTERDAY'S PRINTS.



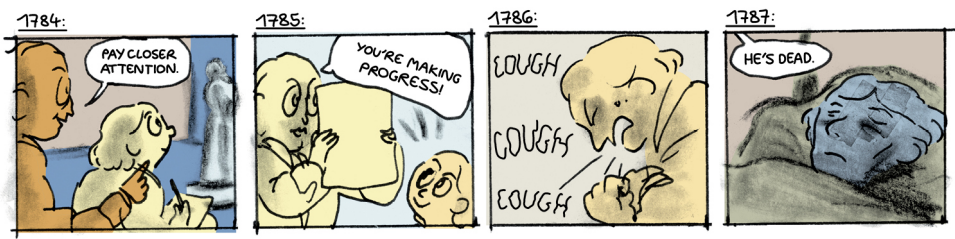
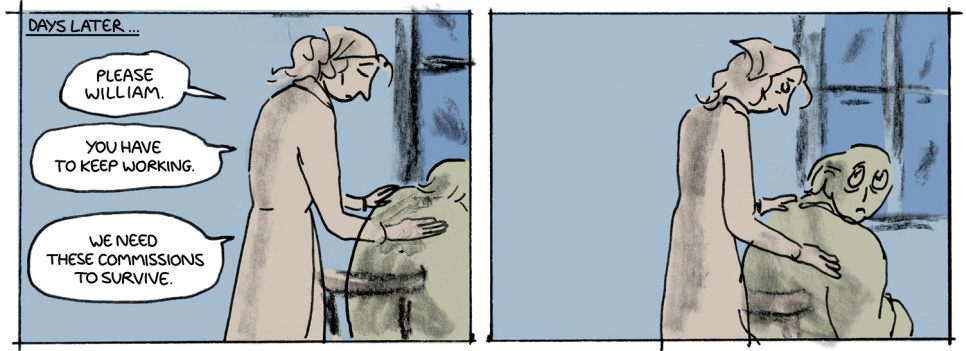
CATHERINE?

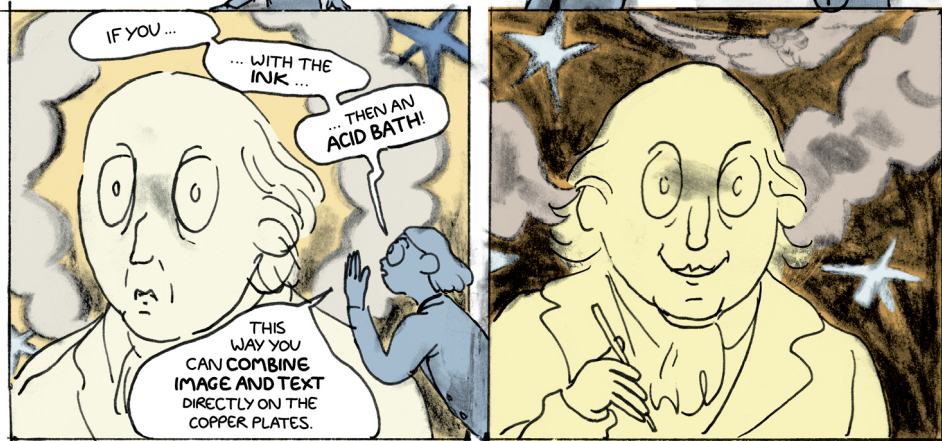
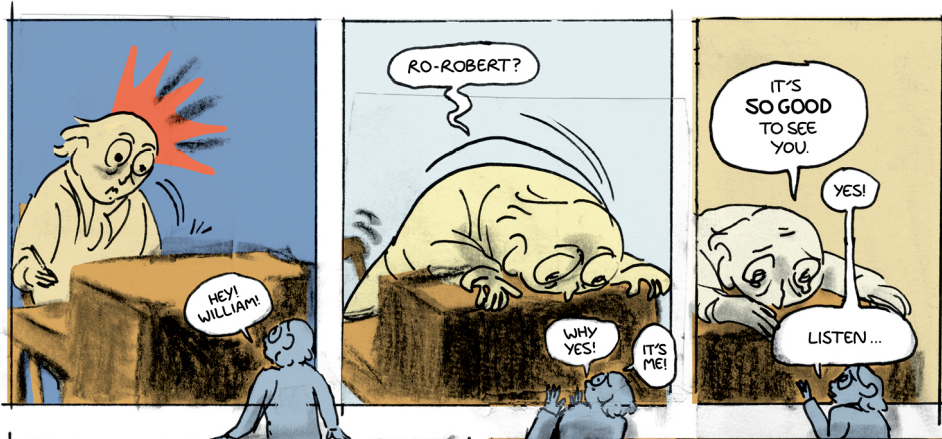
YES?

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE IT IF MY BROTHER ROBERT MOVED IN HERE?

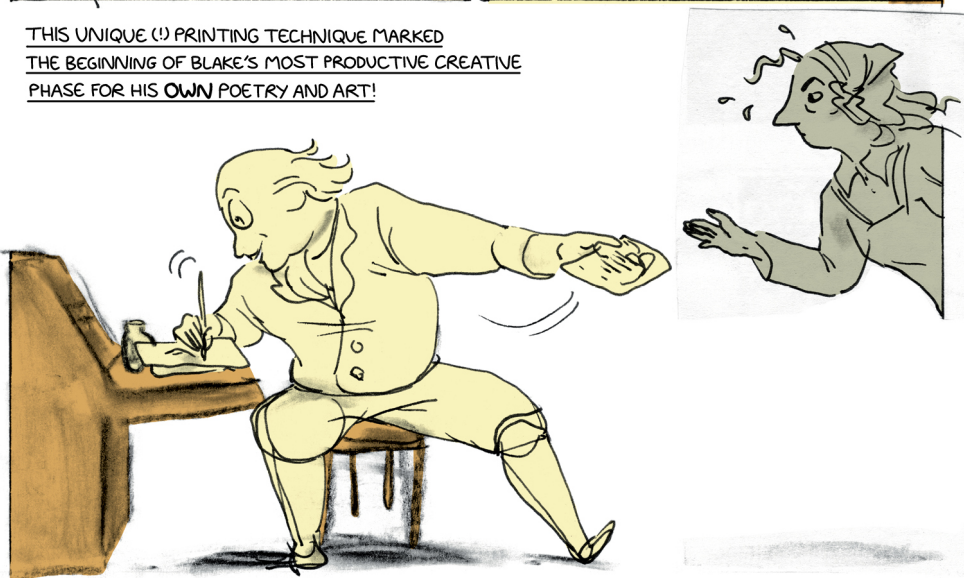
HM.

WHY NOT?

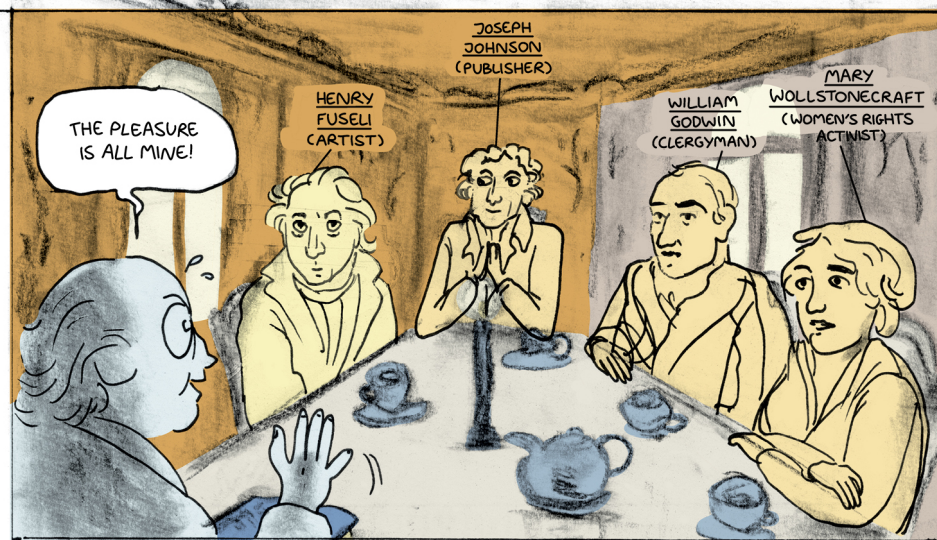




THIS UNIQUE (!) PRINTING TECHNIQUE MARKED THE BEGINNING OF BLAKE'S MOST PRODUCTIVE CREATIVE PHASE FOR HIS OWN POETRY AND ART!



AND FINALLY: AS A GUEST OF THE PUBLISHER JOSEPH JOHNSON ...



IT ALL
BEGINS WITH
URIZEN...

... THE CREATOR
OF THE MATERIAL
WORLD!

AND ALONG
WITH IT A RIGID
ORDER.

BUT THERE
IS STILL ORC!

GOD'S, I MEAN URIZEN'S
ADVERSARY!

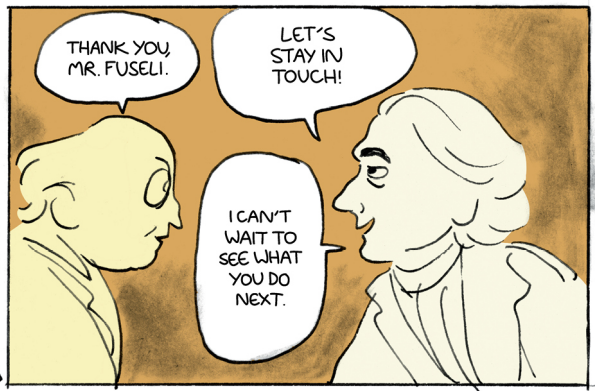
STILL HIDDEN
BY ENITHARMON,
THE INSTITUTION
OF THE CHURCH.

I SOMETIMES
DEPICT ORC AS
A SNAKE.

BUT THE
FRENCH
REVOLUTION IS
APPROACHING...



... AND THERE'S NO STOPPING IT.



BLAKE EXPERIENCED MORE THAN ONE REVOLUTION. EVEN THOUGH HE WAS SYMPATHETIC TO THEM, HE ALSO SAW THE DREAD. IN 1800 HE WROTE TO JOHN FLAXMAN:

"... terrors appear'd in the Heavens above
And in Hell beneath, & a mighty & awful change threatened the earth.
The American War began.
All its dark horrors passed before my face
Across the Atlantic to France. Then the French
Revolution commenc'd in thick clouds."

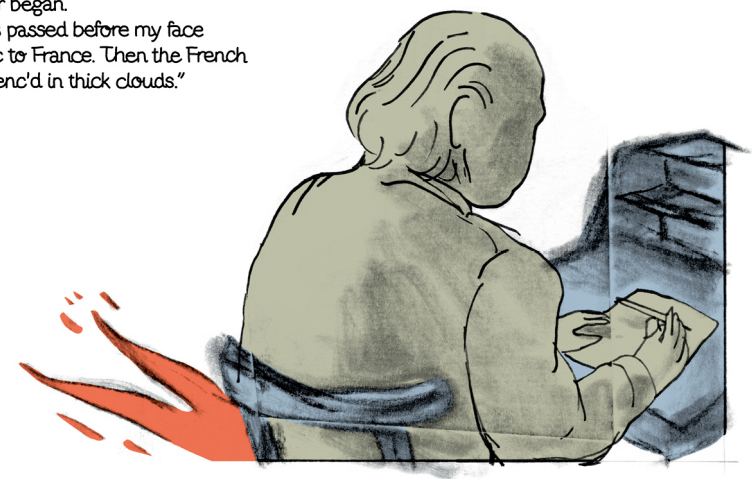


LISTEN! THERE MUST BE BOTH!

URIZENS MATHEMATICAL PRECISION ALONE IS OPPRESSIVE!

WE NEED CHAOS! HELL! THE RENEWAL!

CREATIVITY SPIRITUALITY! REMOTE FROM THE CATHOLIC CHURCH!





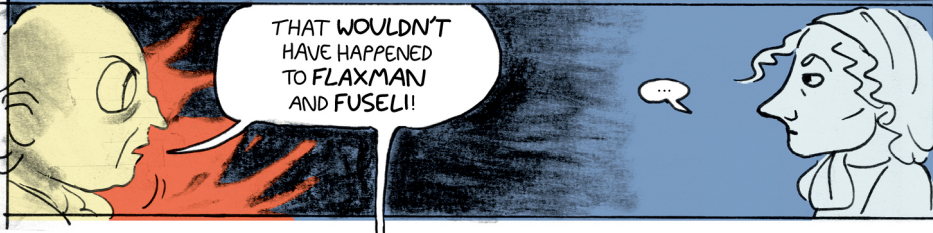
MAIL FOR YOU!



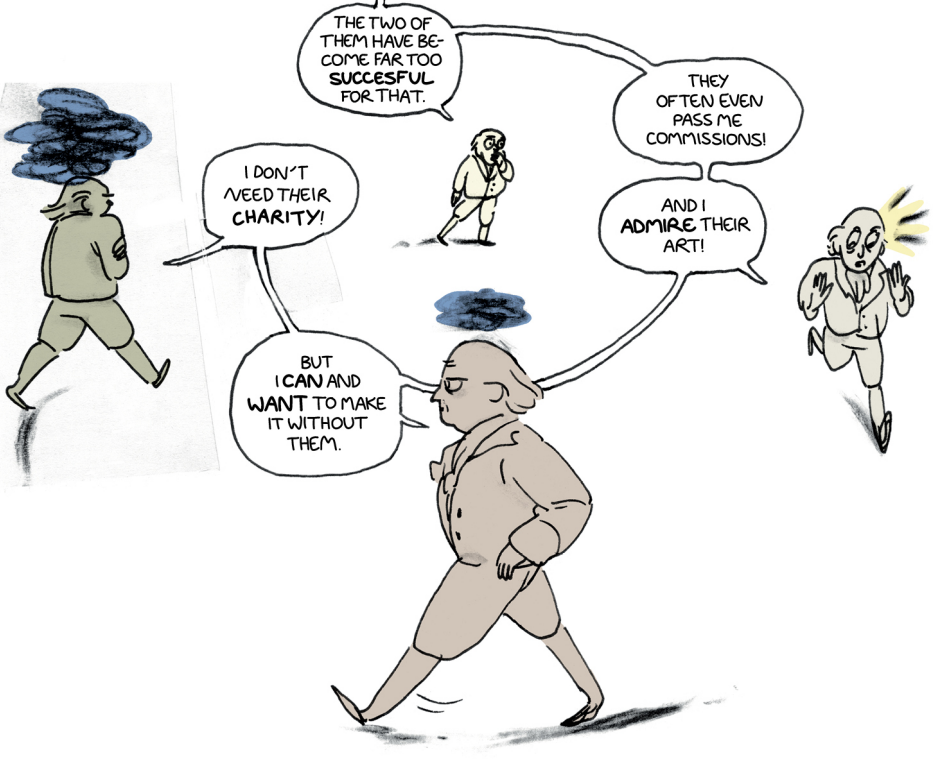
THE ROYAL ACADEMY WROTE ME.
AND?
REJECTION.



TOO BAD FOR THEM!
THEN THEIR EXHIBITION WILL SIMPLY BE WORSE.



THAT WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED TO FLAXMAN AND FUSELI!



THE TWO OF THEM HAVE BECOME FAR TOO SUCCESSFUL FOR THAT.

I DON'T NEED THEIR CHARITY!

BUT I CAN AND WANT TO MAKE IT WITHOUT THEM.

THEY OFTEN EVEN PASS ME COMMISSIONS!

AND I ADMIRE THEIR ART!

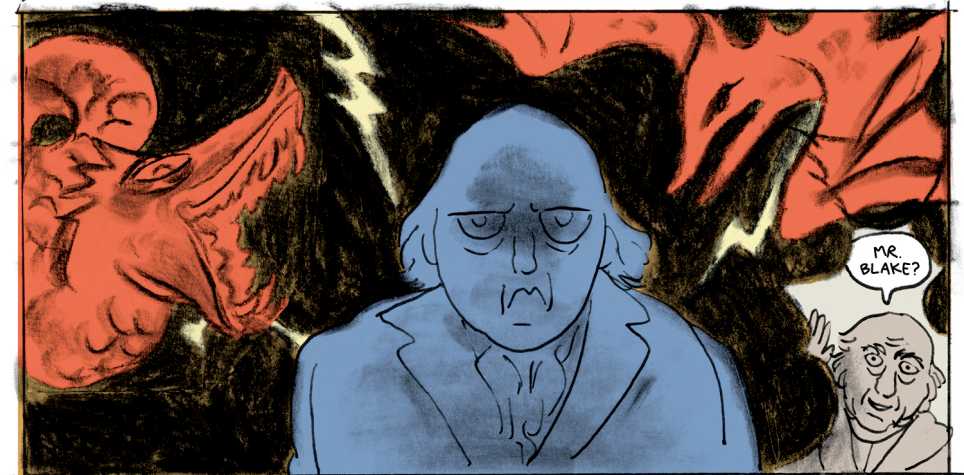
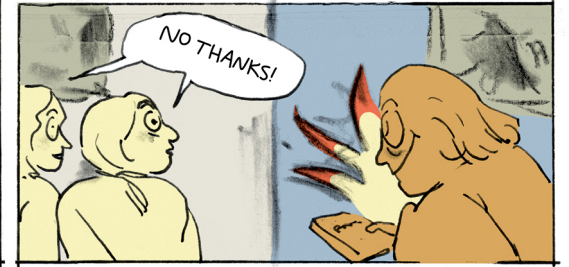
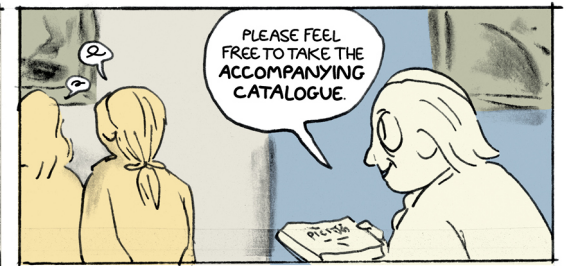


POOR WILLIAM!
BUT YOU REALLY DON'T NEED THEM.



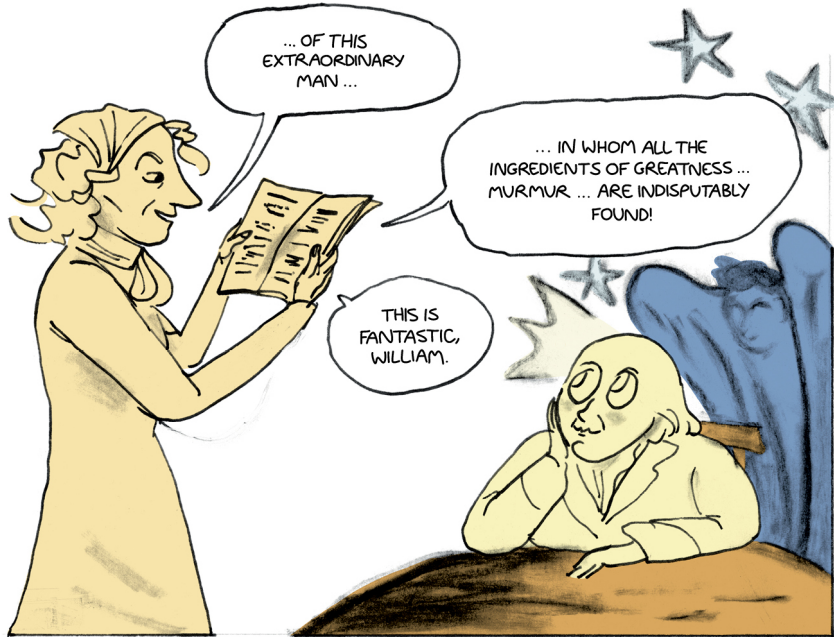
CATHERINE, YOU'RE RIGHT!

I'LL JUST HAVE MY OWN EXHIBITION!

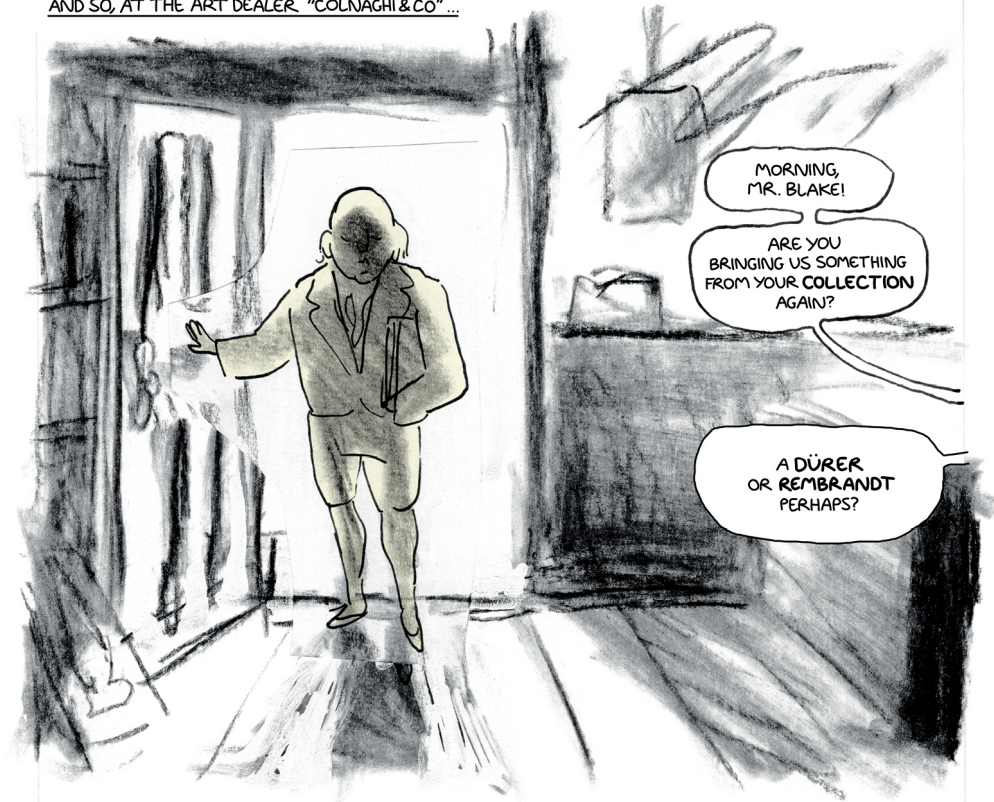




1811:



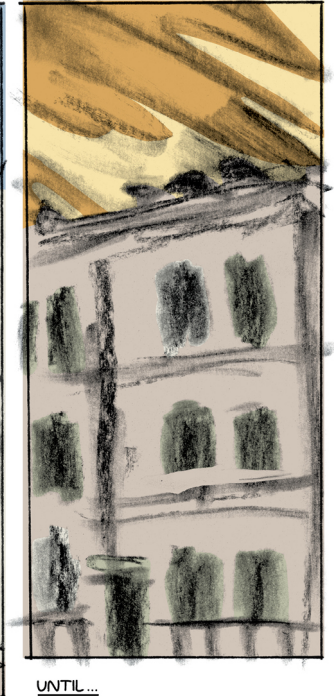
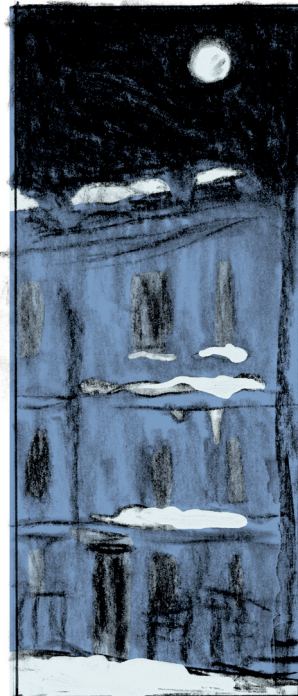
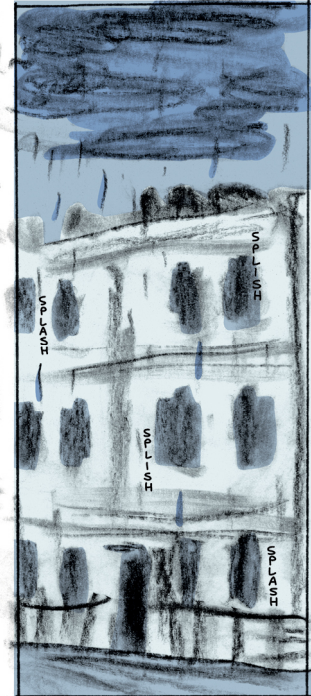
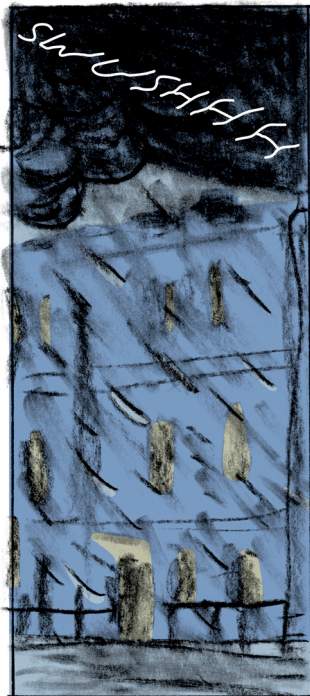
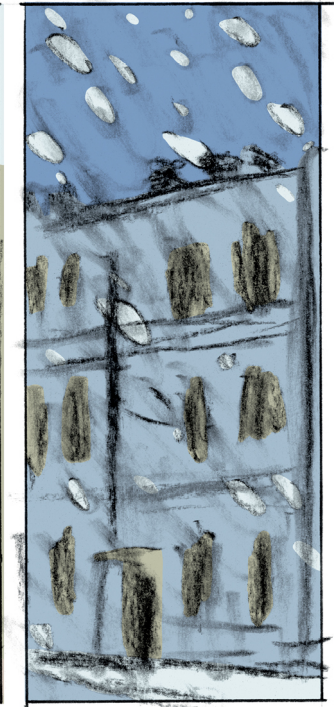
UNFORTUNATELY, EVEN AFTER THE HAMBURG REVIEW, BLAKE REMAINED UNKNOWN. AND SO, AT THE ART DEALER "COLNAGHI & CO" ...



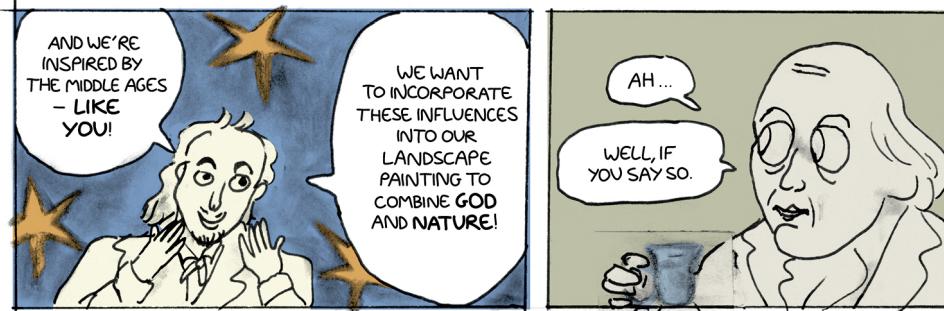
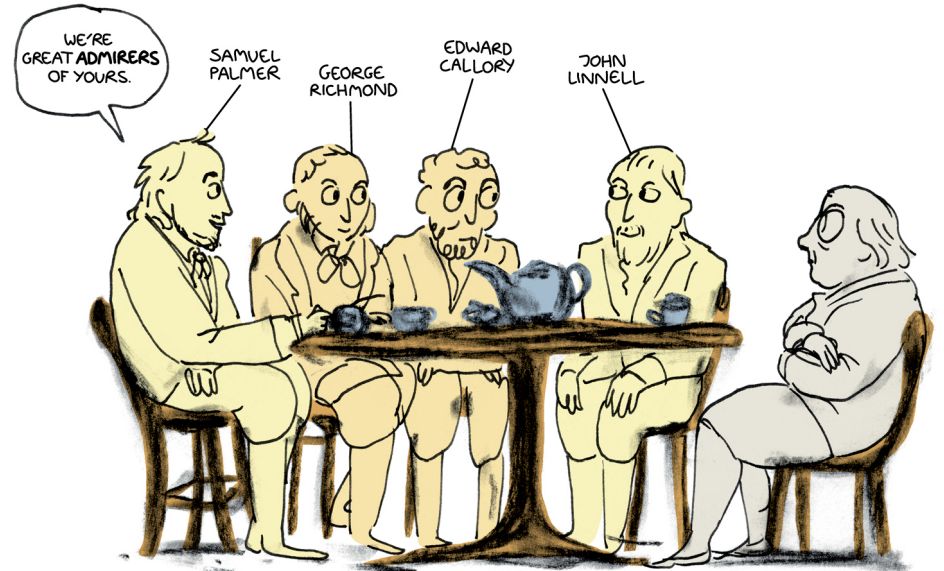
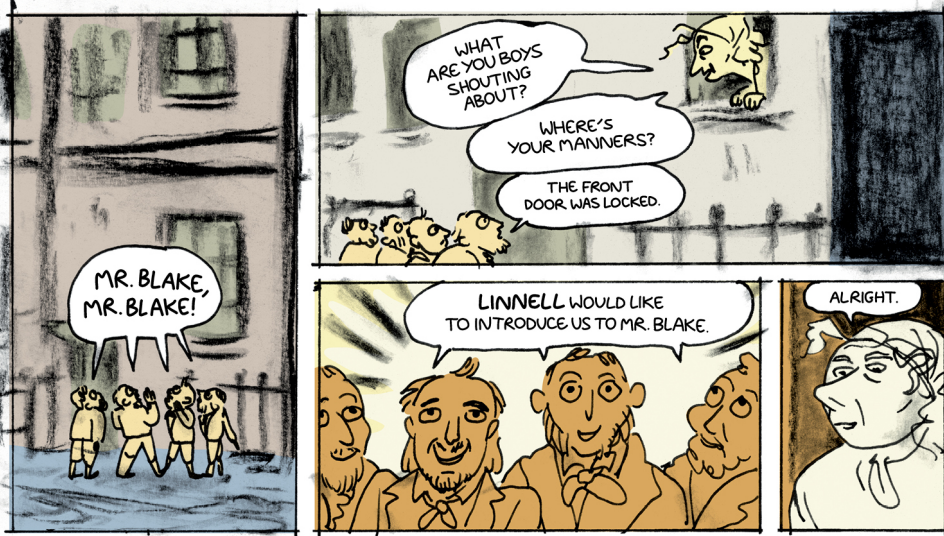
... UNTIL THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT OF WILLIAM'S EXTENSIVE PRINT COLLECTION.



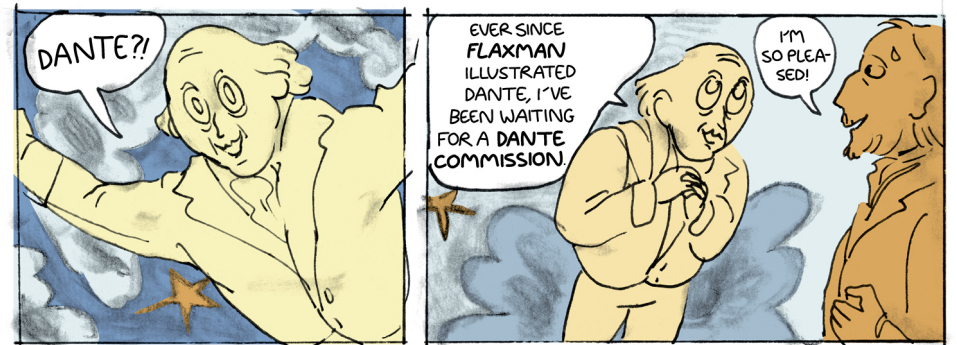
WILLIAM AND CATHERINE WERE LIVING IN POVERTY. WILLIAM WITHDREW MORE AND MORE FROM PUBLIC LIFE.

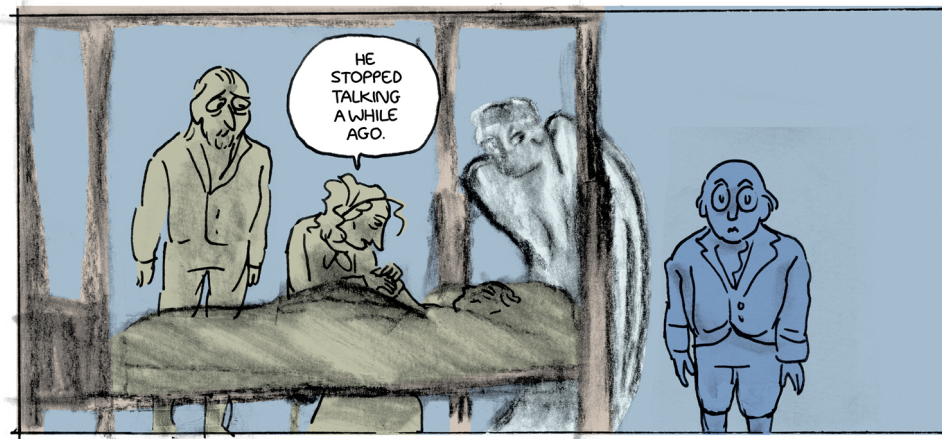


UNTIL...



BLAKE COULD THINK WHAT HE LIKED OF THIS GROUP OF YOUNG ARTISTS. LINNELL IN PARTICULAR WAS A FREQUENT GUEST AND ARRANGED SEVERAL COMMISSIONS FOR HIM.







William Blake's Universe

An exhibition by Hamburger Kunsthalle
14 June to 8 September 2024

Noëlle Kröger (*1997, he/she) is a Hamburg-based comic artist. There she completed her BA and MA in illustration at the University of Applied Sciences (HAW) Hamburg. "Good Person Trouble" was published in the USA by Fieldmouse Press and awarded the GINCO Dear to our Hearts Prize, 2021. In autumn 2024, Reprodukt will publish "Meute", which was a finalist for the Berthold Leibinger Comic Prize 2024.

Imprint

This graphic novel is published on the occasion of the exhibition
"William Blake's Universe" at Hamburger Kunsthalle

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www.hamburger-kunsthalle.de/en/

Management Board

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Managing Director: Norbert Kölle

Curators: Andreas Stolzenburg in collaboration with
David Bindman (London), Esther Chadwick (Courtauld Institute of Art, London)
Assistant curator: Jan Steinke
Research trainee: Julia Kersting

Graphic Novel

Concept and realization: Melanie Fahden, Julia Kersting, Noëlle Kröger, Jenny Saitzek,
Jan Steinke, Andreas Stolzenburg, Andrea Weniger
Authors: Noëlle Kröger
Editing: Melanie Fahden, Julia Kersting, Noëlle Kröger, Ulla Mußler, Jenny Saitzek,
Jan Steinke, Andreas Stolzenburg, Andrea Weniger
Translation: Barbara Lang
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EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

CURATOR'S TOUR

Each time from 6 pm to 7.30 pm
25 July 2024 with Andreas Stolzenburg
8 August 2024 with Julia Kersting
22 August 2024 with Jan Steinke
29 August 2024 with Andreas Stolzenburg

COMIC READING WITH NOËLLE KRÖGER AS PART OF THE SALON BLAKE

29 August 2024 from 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm
Presented by Simon Schultz

Please visit our website for the latest
information on upcoming events:
www.hamburger-kunsthalle.de/en/kalender

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