

The William Heath Robinson Trust

Press Release

Heath Robinson Exhibition at West House, Pinner.

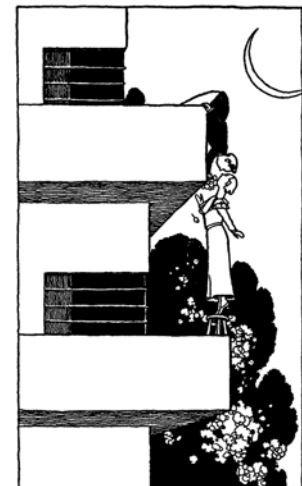
An exciting new exhibition of the work of William Heath Robinson has just opened at West House in Pinner. It shows the two contrasting sides of his art, as an illustrator and as a humorous artist.

Jonathan Cape started his publishing house in 1921 and one of his first projects was an illustrated set of the complete works of Shakespeare. His chosen artist was William Heath Robinson, who over a two year period made over 650 black and white drawings and a number of coloured illustrations. However, for the project to be viable, Cape needed to find a US publisher to share the costs and this he failed to do. The project was abandoned and the pictures disappeared from view. They were only rediscovered in 1991 when a Cape warehouse was closed. A selection of these unpublished drawings, on loan from Random House, will be shown at West House until February next year. They are fine examples of the artist's work and are particularly interesting for the insight that they provide into the development of Heath Robinson's style and approach to illustration at this time.



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In a completely different vein are the drawings that Heath Robinson made for *How to Live in a Flat* in 1936. As well as providing an opportunity for many of his contraptions, the book gave him an opportunity to satirise Modernism in architecture and design. Architecture was gently mocked with corner windows and curved balconies much in evidence. There is also an extended section that explores the possibilities of tubular steel furniture and the insanity of the more extreme 'Modern' designs. Throughout the book he is able to combine digs at the architecture with his favourite subject of people taking themselves too seriously. A selection of drawings from the book is included in the show.



The exhibition will be open on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons from 1pm to 5pm at West House, 50 West End Lane, Pinner, HA5 1AE.

For more information and images contact Geoffrey Beare, tel: 01483 511422 or gbeare@idnet.com

Illustrations: Above – An illustration for King Henry V.
Below – The Romantic Possibilities of Modern Flats.