

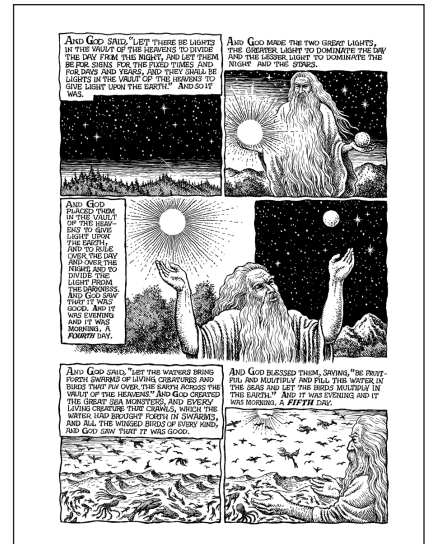
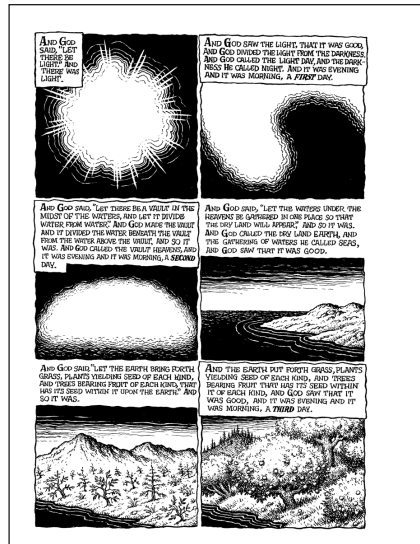
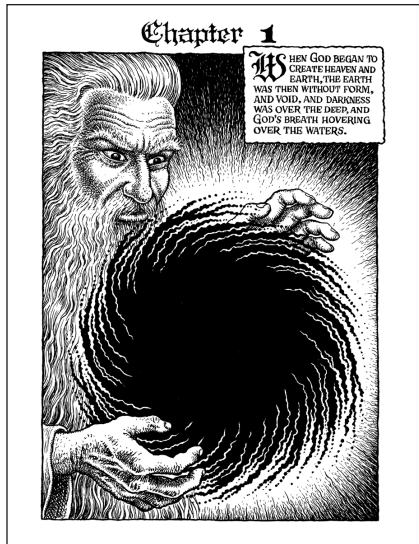
For immediate release

R. CRUMB

The Bible Illuminated: R. Crumb's Book of Genesis

March 4 – April 17, 2010

Opening reception: Thursday, March 4, 6 – 8pm



David Zwirner is pleased to present *The Bible Illuminated: R. Crumb's Book of Genesis*, the artist's second solo exhibition at the gallery.

These drawings – 207 extraordinary individual works of pen and ink on paper – were produced for his now landmark *The Book of Genesis Illustrated by R. Crumb* (W.W. Norton), published in October 2009. Five years in the making and released to instant critical acclaim, the eagerly awaited book topped many bestseller lists, including #1 on the *New York Times: Graphic Books* list.

From Creation to the death of Joseph, Crumb chronicles all fifty chapters of Genesis in an astonishing tapestry of masterly detail and storytelling, rendered frame by frame in meticulous comic book fashion. With a literal interpretation primarily assembled from translations of Robert Alter and the King James Bible, Crumb reintroduces us to the bountiful tree lined garden of Adam and Eve, the massive ark of Noah with beasts of every kind, the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah destroyed by brimstone and fire that rained from the heavens, and the Egypt of the Pharaoh, where Joseph's embalmed body is carried in a coffin, in a scene as elegiac as any in Genesis. Using clues from the text and peeling away the theological and scholarly versions that have often obscured the Bible's most dramatic stories, Crumb fleshes out a parade of Biblical originals: from the serpent in Eden, as a humanoid reptile; to Abraham's wife Sarah, more fetching than most woman at 90; to God himself, patriarchal and white-bearded.

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Crumb's first exhibition at David Zwirner was in May 2007, soon after the artist joined the gallery, and featured close to sixty figurative works spanning from 1965 to 2005.

Robert Crumb (born 1943, Philadelphia) began drawing comics as a young boy. In the late 1960s he emerged as the leading figure in the underground comic movement. Since then, his influence has been immeasurable, from the first issue of *Zap Comix* in 1968; to his most recognized comic, *Keep on Truckin'*, which became a widely distributed fixture of pop culture in the late 1970s; from the adventures of his notorious characters Devil Girl, Fritz the Cat, and Mr. Natural; to being the subject of Terry Zwigoff's 1995 documentary, *Crumb*.

Crumb was recently the focus of a touring solo exhibition, *R. Crumb's Underground*, at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, California (2007), which then traveled to the Frye Art Museum, Seattle, Washington, the Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (both 2008), the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Boston, and the Grand Central Art Center, Santa Ana, California (both 2009). Crumb has had one-man exhibitions at the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, The Netherlands (2005) and the Ludwig Museum, Cologne, Germany (2004). *The Bible Illuminated: R. Crumb's Book of Genesis* was recently on view at the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles, California, and following David Zwirner it will travel to the Portland Art Museum, Portland, Oregon (June - September 2010).

The artist currently lives in the south of France with his wife, Aline Kominsky Crumb, the American comic book artist known for her autobiographical stories.