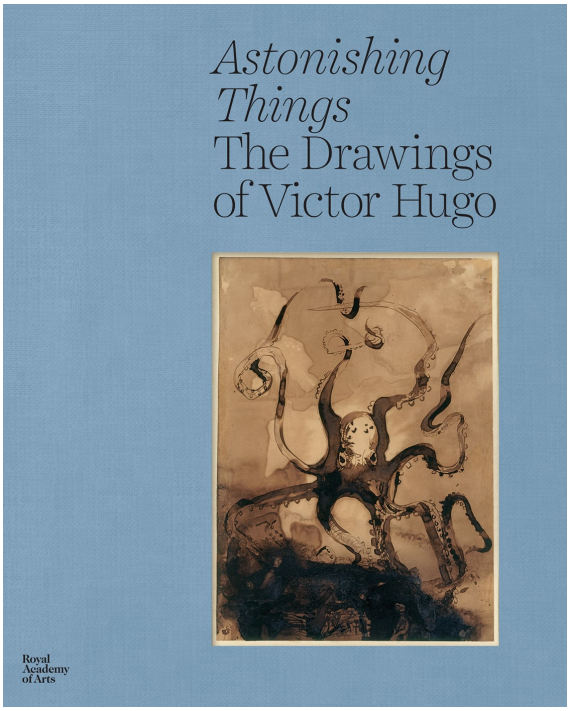
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Astonishing Things

The Drawings of Victor Hugo

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- Discover the imaginary worlds of Victor Hugo, one of France's most famous writers, with his rarely seen works on paper
- Published to accompany an exhibition at the Royal Academy, 21 March – 29 June 2025

The novelist, poet and politician, Victor Hugo (1802–1885) was a towering figure in French 19th-century public life. The author of*Les Misérables* and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* became a symbol of the French Republic's ideals of equality and freedom during his long exile in the Channel Islands. His ink-and-wash visions of imaginary castles, monsters and seascapes may be less well known than his writings, but they inspired Romantic and Symbolist poets, and many artists, including the Surrealists; Vincent van Gogh compared them to 'astonishing things'.

This handsome book – the catalogue of an exhibition organised by the Royal Academy of Arts in collaboration with Paris Musées – Maison de Victor Hugo and the Bibliothèque nationale de France – includes new texts by leading authorities on Hugo and reproductions of many of his finest works on paper, from early caricatures and travel drawings to dramatic landscapes and experiments in abstraction.

Gérard Audinet is Director of the Maisons de Victor Hugo in Paris/Guernsey. **Thomas Cazentre** is Chargé de collections: manuscrits modernes et contemporains at the Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris. **Sarah Lea** is Curator at the Royal Academy of Arts, London. **Rose Thompson** is Assistant Curator at the Royal Academy of Arts, London.







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