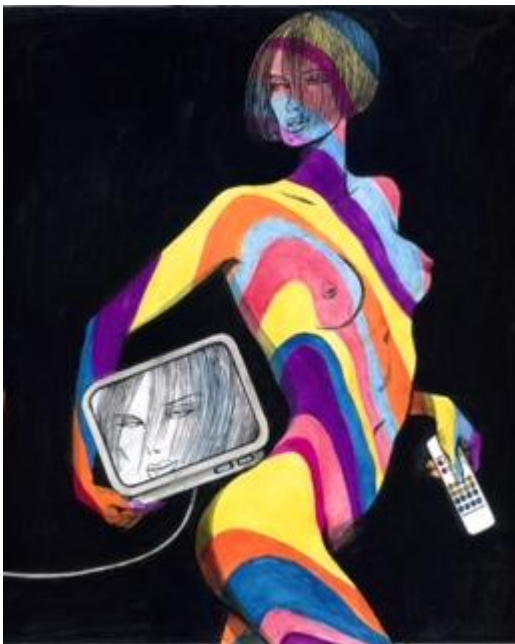


# GUIDO CREPAX

## Valentina e Amici

**Scott Eder Gallery** is incredibly excited to bring the art of Guido Crepax (Milan, 1933-2003) to the United States for the very first time. Though for many years out of print in English, Italy's Crepax and his female creation, Valentina, are widely known and beloved in the European comics world.



Seamlessly weaving eroticism, fashion, music and film, Crepax began his comics career in the early 1960s, as the Italian art and comics genre moved away from censorship and modesty and towards the expression of sexual freedom. Despite a degree in architecture, Crepax's earliest jobs were in graphics and advertising, from magazines, book design, and album illustrations, to stage sets and consumer design.

But Crepax is best known for his comic book heroine, Valentina, based on his fascination with silent screen star Louise Brooks. Though she was created in 1965, Valentina has an "actual" birthdate -- December 25, 1942 -- and ages throughout her

life on the page, in Crepax's characteristic kinetic and cinematic panel stylings. Strong and independent, yet sensual, Valentina works as a fashion photographer in Milan, though for the reader she lives somewhere between reality and fantasy, often succumbing to erotic and surrealist dreams and visions.



*Valentina* stories have been printed and reprinted throughout the decades, though they can be frustratingly hard to find in English. Crepax's later creations, starring erotic heroines such as Anita, Belinda, Bianca... and his monster stories involving Frankenstein, Dracula, and Jekyll and Hyde are still more elusive here in the States, making the Scott Eder Gallery's exhibition incredibly significant. More than fifty pages of seminal Crepax illustrations from *Valentina* --and from most of his major books-- will be on display through April 22nd. The gallery's exhibition coincides with the release of the first volume in a brand-new 10-part book series, Fantagraphics' *Crepax: Dracula, Frankenstein, and Other Horror Stories*; books will also be available for purchase at the opening.

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**Opening reception:**

**Saturday, March 12th**

**6 to 9 PM**

**18 Bridge St. #2i, DUMBO**

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