

# THE BIG DRAW

## PRESS RELEASE

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**Patrons:** Sir Quentin Blake, Lord Foster of Thames Bank,  
David Hockney OM CH, Andrew Marr, Sir Roger Penrose OM, Chris Riddell,  
Narinder Sagoo, Gerald Scarfe CBE, Posy Simmonds MBE, Bob & Roberta Smith RA



**For immediate use: Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

### **Ivan Harbour to be announced as Patron of The Big Draw**

**Senior Partner at Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners and Stirling Prize winning architect Ivan Harbour, is to be announced as the newest patron of the Britain's leading visual literacy charity, The Big Draw, on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2018.**

Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners is an international architectural practice based in the Leadenhall Building in London. Over the past four decades, RSHP has attracted critical acclaim and awards with built projects across Europe, the Americas, Asia and Australia.

The announcement will be made by Kate Mason, Director of The Big Draw, during the launch of *#ImaginetheLine*, a weekend long event taking place at London's Docklands.

#### **During the announcement, Kate Mason will say:**

'It is a privilege to announce Ivan Harbour as a Patron of The Big Draw charity and to collaborate with an individual for whom we know drawing is a passion – as he has previously stated, 'drawing is my life'. Ivan's championing of the power and universality of drawing reflects the fundamental messages behind The Big Draw – that everyone can draw, that drawing offers an unrivaled efficacy of communication, and that drawing has the innate ability to transcend boundaries and barriers. In a shifting culture the democratizing power of drawing and mark making remains constant, but it is a fluid language – a visual literacy – that is ever evolving and always open to all.

On behalf of the trustees, team, patrons and ambassadors, we are delighted that Ivan is joining us at what are exciting times.'

#### **Commenting on the forthcoming announcement, Ivan Harbour said:**

'I'm delighted to be patron of the Big Draw. Drawing has been central to many of my formative experiences, whether expressing myself as a child, or designing buildings in later life. It has been key to putting my thoughts down in ways that are difficult to express through words. These days, drawing faces much competition as a tool for expression or representation, so I feel honoured to be part of an organisation which reminds us what a powerful communication tool we have evolved with and how it remains absolutely relevant in our modern world.

Everyone can draw. There is no such thing as a bad drawing; it doesn't require you to have accurate syntax or grammar. It's universal enough that you can have a wobbly line or a straight one – it really doesn't matter."

**The Big Draw is a visual literacy charity that aims to promote drawing as a universal language and a tool for learning, expression and invention.** In becoming a patron of The Big Draw, Ivan Harbour, joins a distinguished roster of supporters, including famous Illustrators Sir Quentin Blake, Gerald Scarfe CBE, Posy Simmonds MBE, and former Children's Laureate, Chris Riddell; Architects Lord Foster of Thames Bank and Narinder Sagoo; Artists David Hockney OM CH and Bob & Roberta Smith RA; journalist and broadcaster Andrew Marr; and physicist and mathematician Sir Roger Penrose OM.

#### **Harbour continued:**

'Drawing has and will continue to have a role in society as an absolute primary way of communicating because it is a universal language. By drawing, the speed at which you can convey information and ideas discussed in a forum lets people realise that they're able to have an input into evolving ideas, as no drawing is ever definitive. With drawing, there's always room for contribution and evolution – elements which are fundamental to the design process.

The Sketch Crawl for me is a wonderful opportunity for people to come together and inspire confidence in one another in their ability to put pen or pencil to paper within a welcoming group environment, making those initial explorations against the architectural backdrop of the Thames skyline; learning that mistakes don't exist, that the best ideas can be borne from experimentation.'

*#ImagetheLine* is an ambitious sketch crawl, which will bring together amateur sketchers with professional artists as well as world-class architect, Ivan Harbour for a weekend of drawing, design and discovery across London's Docklands. Curated by **The Big Draw** and **The Line** - London's first dedicated modern and contemporary art walk – it will take place as part of **UNITY Arts Festival** and **OPEN HOUSE London 2018**.

The Big Draw is also the founder and driving force behind **The Big Draw Festival** - a global, month-long festival celebrating the universal language of drawing, which will take place from **1-31<sup>st</sup> October**, this year.

To find out more about the work of The Big Draw visit [www.thebigdraw.org](http://www.thebigdraw.org).

#### **ENDS**

#### **CONTACT**

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

### **The Big Draw**

Founded in 2000, The Big Draw is a visual literacy charity that promotes the universal language of drawing as a tool for learning, expression and invention. The charity leads a diverse programme of advocacy, empowerment and engagement, and is the founder and driving force behind The Big Draw Festival – the world’s biggest celebration of drawing.

The Big Draw manages collaborative research projects, campaigns and educational conferences on visual literacy, digital technology and STEAM. The charity supports professional and emerging artists through its national contemporary art prize, The John Ruskin Prize and exhibition, and through events, awards, and competitions, creates platforms for each and everyone who wants to draw.

[www.thebigdraw.org](http://www.thebigdraw.org) | [www.ruskinprize.co.uk](http://www.ruskinprize.co.uk)

### **Ivan Harbour**

Ivan began his career working on Lloyd’s of London and subsequently led the design of the European Court of Human Rights and Bordeaux Law Courts. He has considerable experience initiating and directing the design of complex projects, both large and small, and of many different types. Each is a unique response born out of a pursuit of the best and a thorough questioning of design proposals based on a language of; context, public realm, legibility, flexibility, economy, democracy, sustainability and teamwork.

Two of Ivan’s projects – Maggie’s Centre, London (2009) and Terminal 4 Barajas Airport Madrid (2006) have won the Stirling Prize – widely recognised as the most prestigious architectural award in the UK.

His past educational projects include Minami Yamashiro Elementary School in Japan and Mossbourne Community Academy in London. Ivan is currently working on a new academic building for the London School of Economics and on the International Spy Museum as part of RSHP’s masterplan for L’Enfant Plaza in Washington D.C.

### **The Big Draw Festival**

Launched in October 2000, The Big Draw Festival has encouraged over four million people back to the drawing board. It has notched up two world records – for the longest drawing in the world (one kilometre) and the greatest number of people drawing simultaneously (over 7,000).

The first Big Draw Festival in 2000 attracted 180 partner organisations. Since then, the number had risen to over 1,000, with over 400,000 people participating each year. What began as a one day celebration of drawing in October 2000 in the UK, is now an annual month-long festival of drawing across the world. To find your nearest event or find out more about organising one visit: [www.thebigdraw.org](http://www.thebigdraw.org)

**#ImagetheLine** - Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2018, 12 noon until 3pm.

Meeting point: [NOW Gallery](#), The Gateway Pavilions, Peninsula Square, Greenwich Peninsula, London, SE10 0SQ.

Participants of *#ImagetheLine* will join a sketch crawl, and be invited to draw a fascinating panorama – ‘where the lines between art and architecture dissolve’. The sketch crawl will start from North Greenwich before taking a boat to London’s only Lighthouse and the iconic Container Buildings

at Trinity Buoy Wharf. It will then move to Leamouth Peninsula where the brand new development of colourful towers at London City Island is located.

Tickets include an **exclusive free boat trip** on *'The Predator'* connecting Greenwich Peninsula with Trinity Buoy Wharf, run by Thames Clippers and chartered by Unity Arts Festival for the exclusive use of #ImaginetheLine sketchcrawl attendees on both days (you will receive a wristband to claim your free boatride). Drawing materials will be supplied by The Big Draw, but if you prefer to use your own please bring them along!

<https://thebigdraw.org/imaginetheline>