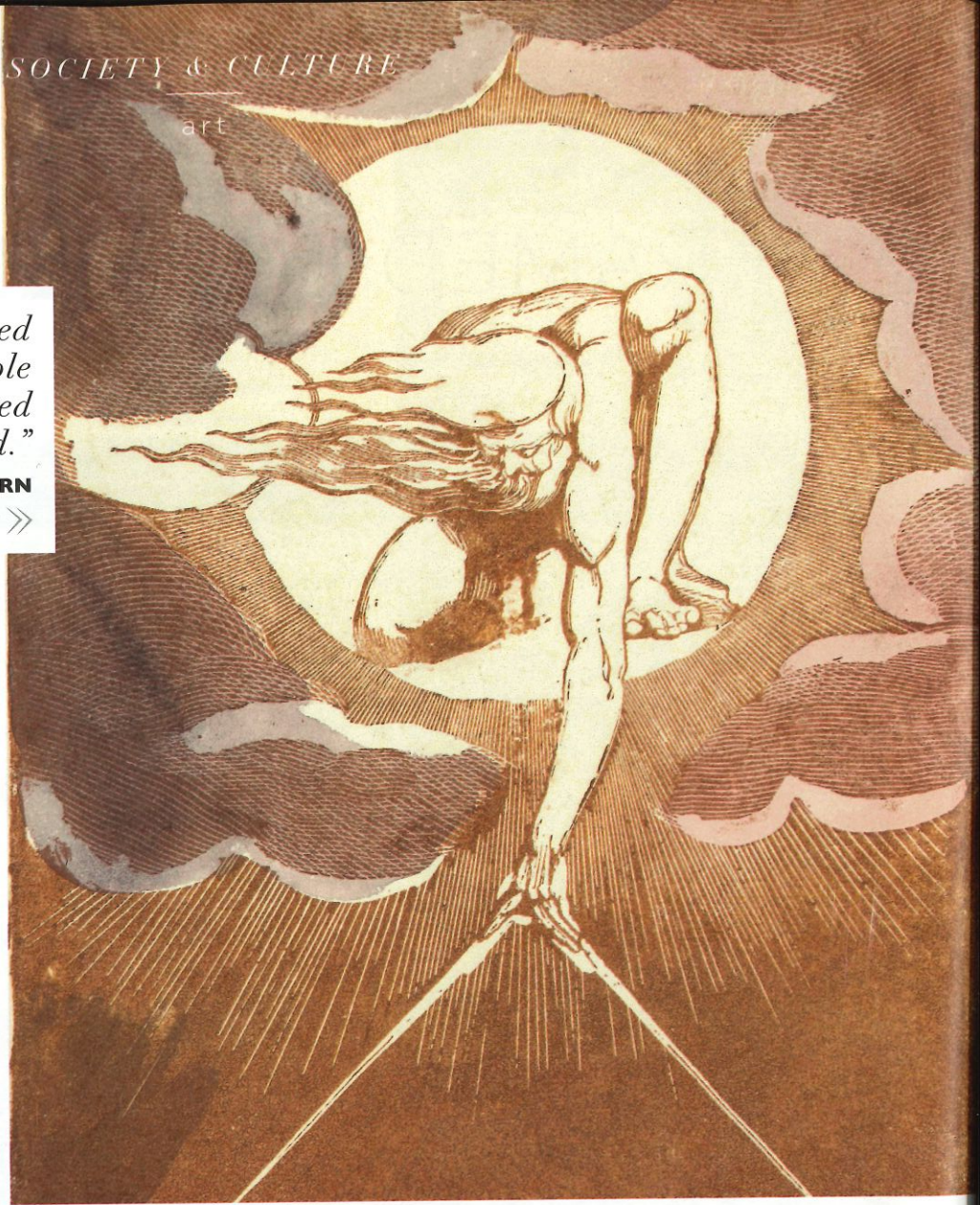
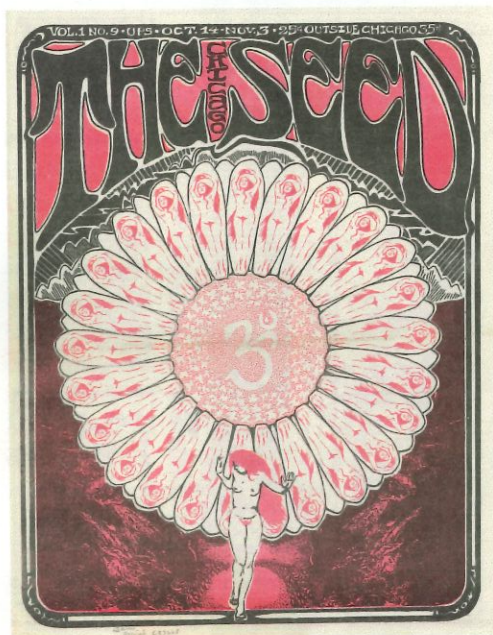


« “Blake is someone who believed that the most important thing people can do is to create a society based upon love and genuine human need.”

—STEPHEN F. EISENMAN, NORTHWESTERN  
PROFESSOR OF ART HISTORY »



## HAUTE HIPPIES

A new exhibition celebrates the summer of love and the poet who inspired its art.

By Kerrie Kennedy

It's been five years in the making, but Sept. 23, Northwestern University's Block Museum will unveil a major exhibition focusing on an unlikely pairing—the works of Romantic-age poet and artist William Blake (1757-1827) and the counterculture artists he inspired. *William Blake and the Age of Aquarius* brings together works from Beat Generation poets and writers like Allen Ginsberg, who claimed that he once heard the voice of Blake in a vision, to musicians like The Doors, who took their name from a Blake quote.

Featuring more than 150 paintings, drawings, photographs, films, posters and other mediums (including video, sound and an excerpt from a light show) from the '50s, '60s and '70s, as well as more than 50 rare Blake engravings and pages

from illustrated books, this is the first exhibit to examine Blake's impact on modern artists, as well as their posthumous impact on his reputation. "At the time of his death, William Blake was almost unknown, and now he has become one of the most famous artists who ever lived," says exhibition curator and Northwestern professor of art history Stephen F. Eisenman, who notes that Blake became a model of nonconformity, self-expression, and social and political resistance, especially to those artists associated with the "summer of love."

Featuring objects from the Yale Center for British Art, The Rosenbach in Philadelphia and The Milwaukee Art Museum, among others, the exhibit includes a special edition of former Chicago magazine *The Seed*. "Chicago had a huge counterculture, and this exhibition touches upon that," Eisenman says.

But for Eisenman, what's even more significant is the relevance of Blake's voice today. "Blake is someone who believed that the most important thing people can do is to create a society based upon love and genuine human need," he says. "In an age of growing inequality like ours, Blake's is a voice that needs to be heard." *Opens Sept. 23, blockmuseum.northwestern.edu*