

**News Release
Public Information
Department**

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William Blake's Watercolor *The Great Red Dragon and the Woman Clothed with the Sun*, featured in the Newly Released *Red Dragon* Film, on View at the Brooklyn Museum of Art October 18–November 10, 2002

The Brooklyn Museum of Art's famous William Blake watercolor *The Great Red Dragon and the Woman Clothed with the Sun*, featured in the newly released film *Red Dragon*, starring Anthony Hopkins and Ed Norton, will be on view from October 18 through November 10. It marks the first time in thirteen years that the work, part of a series by Blake circa 1803–05, will be on view in New York.

The Blake watercolor, which has captured the imagination of generations, may also be seen on the dustjacket of the latest hardcover edition of Thomas Harris's eponymous bestselling novel from which the film is adapted, in which the now-mythic Hannibal Lecter first appears. A poster of this extraordinary work, priced at \$12, is available in the Museum Shop.

The Great Red Dragon and the Woman Clothed with the Sun is one of twelve in a group by William Blake inspired by the *Book of Revelation*, in which the *Great Red Dragon* is a principal figure. Scholars suggest that the Great Red Dragon was similar to the mythological figures the poet had invented in his own Prophetic Books.

The Dragon, in hues of ochre and reddish brown, is seen from behind with emphasis on his great tail. He represents Satan, standing in a threatening pose with outspread legs and huge extended wings over the Woman Clothed with the Sun, who is depicted in gold with a pale yellow moon at her feet. He is hoping to seize the child that she, symbolizing both Israel and the Church, is about to bear.

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