



Made in North Korea: Everyday Graphics from the DPRK

At House of Illustration's Main Gallery

23 February – 13 May

Press View: Thursday 22 February 9 – 11am

The UK's first ever exhibition of graphic design from North Korea



On 23 February House of Illustration will open the first ever UK exhibition of graphic design from North Korea.

The exhibition will show over 100 common objects including food packaging, ticket stubs and stamps together with hand-painted posters and comics, all collected by Nicholas Bonner who has led tours to the country for over 20 years.

The objects reveal a graphic style honed over decades in a closed society, giving an extraordinary and rare insight into the everyday life of North Koreans.

The exhibition will be co-curated by Bonner, the foremost expert on North Korean graphic culture, tourism and film. It follows the recent release of his book *Made in North Korea: Graphics from Everyday Life in the DPRK*, published by Phaidon.

Bonner is also the co-producer and director of North Korea's first girl power movie, *Comrade Kim Goes Flying*, which will be screened at the Barbican Cinema on 28 March to coincide with the exhibition.

Nicholas Bonner said:

"This collection represents common objects given beautiful status by the hand-drawn graphics from North Korea's most creative designers. Some of the work is elaborate but the basic designs too should not be overlooked – minimalistic simplicity creating beautifully rhythmic artwork."

Colin McKenzie, Director of House of Illustration, said:

"House of Illustration was created to celebrate illustration in all its forms so we are particularly excited to be putting on an exhibition that showcases this unexpectedly beautiful ephemera from North Korea. The packaging, posters and other common objects in our exhibition have never before been the subject of a show in the UK but they provide a window onto everyday life in one of the world's most controversial nations."

CONTACT DETAILS

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IMAGE CREDITS

Tinned food labels, collection of Nicholas Bonner, images courtesy of Phaidon

LISTINGS INFORMATION

Made in North Korea: Everyday Graphics from the DPRK

23 February – 13 May 2018

23 February Q&A at House of Illustration with collector Nicholas Bonner

28 March Screening of North Korea's first girl power movie, *Comrade Kim Goes Flying*, at Barbican Cinema

19 April Talk on comics from North and South Korea with Paul Gravett, the UK's foremost comics expert, at House of Illustration

Main Gallery at House of Illustration, 2 Granary Square, King's Cross, London N1C 4BH

Open Tuesday-Sunday 10am-6pm (closed Monday)

Admission (one ticket gives admission to all three galleries) £8.25 inc gift aid

020 3696 2020, houseofillustration.org.uk, [facebook.com/houseofillustration](https://www.facebook.com/houseofillustration), [@illustrationHQ](https://www.instagram.com/illustrationHQ)

Exhibitions currently on:

[Gerald Scarfe: Stage and Screen](#) (until 10 February)

[Quentin Blake & John Yeoman: 50 Years of Children's Books](#) (until 4 February)

[Lucinda Rogers: On Gentrification](#) (until 25 March)

NOTES TO EDITORS

House of Illustration is the UK's only public gallery dedicated solely to illustration and graphic art. Founded by Sir Quentin Blake it opened in July 2014 in King's Cross, London. Its exhibition programme explores both historic and contemporary illustration and the work of defining and emerging illustrators, amplified by a vibrant programme of talks and events. A registered charity, House of Illustration supports and promotes new talent, commissions new work and has a pioneering learning programme for children, young people, adults and families delivered by professional illustrators. houseofillustration.org.uk

Nicholas Bonner first visited North Korea in 1993 and subsequently set up Koryo Tours, based in Beijing and specialising in group travel to the DPRK. He has produced three documentaries on North Korea as well as the feature film *Comrade Kim Goes Flying*, and was part of the curatorial team behind the Golden Lion-winning Korea pavilion at the 2014 Venice Biennale. koryogroup.com

Made in North Korea: Graphics from Everyday Life in the DPRK by Nicholas Bonner is published by Phaidon. ISBN: 978 071 487 3503. Available from House of Illustration's independent bookshop.