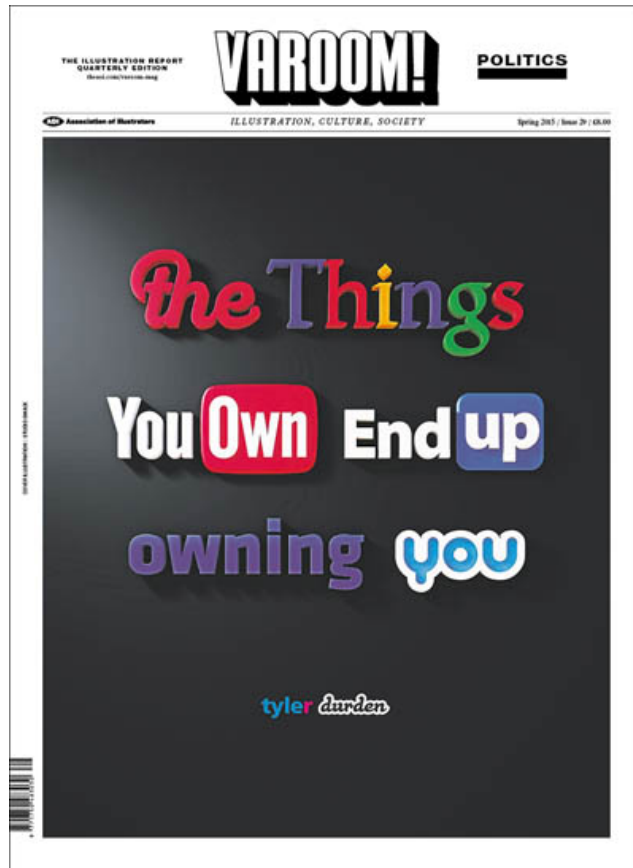


VAROOM!

VAROOM 29: Illustration Report

Illustration, Culture, Society – Spring 2015

The Politics Issue



Varoom 29 highlights new directions in tackling the idea of politics.

A starting point for the Politics issue of *Varoom* is the feature on **Radical Illustrators**, published by the AOI in 1981, a moment when industries, the social world and assumed realities of post-war world were breaking up. A fascinating set of reflections from the original contributors, not least from **Rob Mason** on what united the group, “Very little, apart from a general frustration and a shared dislike of the airbrush!” What makes their work so exciting, and the work of the other image-makers in this issue connecting with politics and the social, is the dynamic of Pulp Friction.

This is strongly exhibited in the work of four political cartoonists challenging our assumptions on a

diverse array of topical subjects in **Lol: The Changing Formats of Humour**. In **American Histories** *Varoom* examines the different uses of drawing by punk icon **Raymond Pettibon** and Guantanamo court artist **Janet Hamlin**, whose contrasting styles and commentaries illuminate 21st Century American politics.

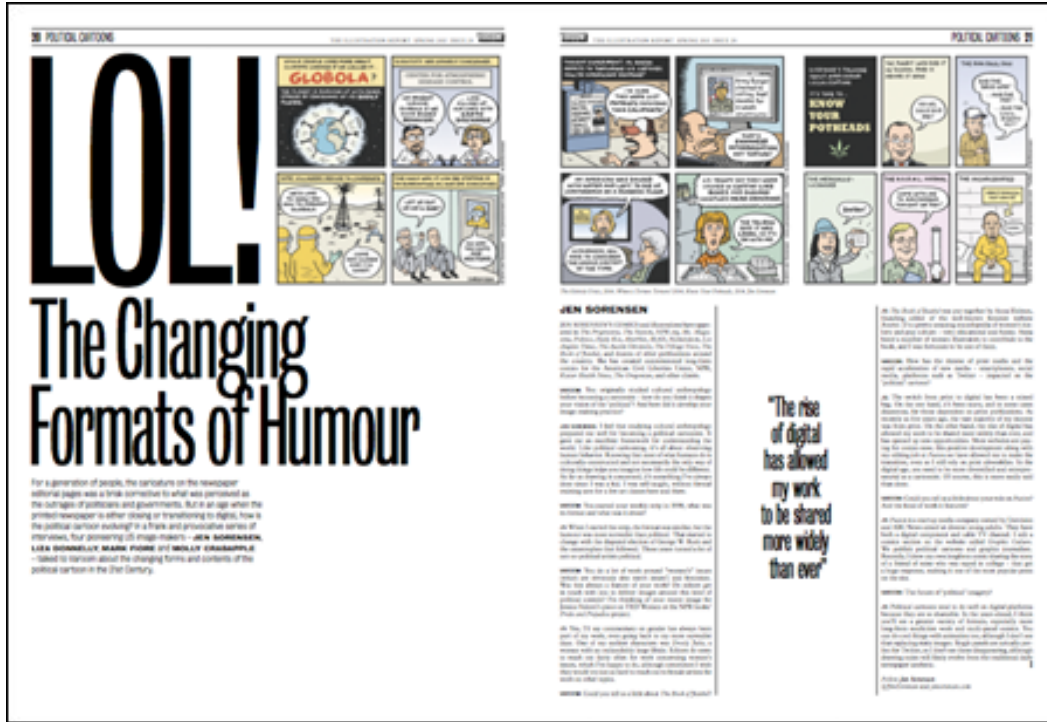
Motion editor, Shane Walter, examines **David O’Reilly’s** *Heaven’s Countryland*, an animated fictional propaganda film of North Korea’s ‘guide to the USA’ - “a bimbimnap, bonkers, batshit, crazy bowl of ridiculous fun.”

Paul Davis gives a personal reflection on the politics theme, and as in each issue, **Marian Bantjes** delivers a uniquely crafted double-page image, which may remind readers of the scramble for prominence featured in the current election campaign.

Varoom 29:

Lol: The Changing Formats of Humour

In a frank series of interviews, Jen Sorensen, Liza Donnelly, Mark Fiore, and Molly Crabapple tell Varoom about the changing forms and contents of the political cartoon in the 21st Century – covering Solitary Confinement, Gay Commerce and women’s roles



Banning Children’s Books

You might be surprised at the extent to which children’s books are removed from US public libraries. We hear the reaction from illustrators and writers.



Awkward Gestures

In the world of controlled fashion cool, Zoe Taylor explores playful and experimental fashion visualisations through a series of interviews with Helen Bullock, Damien Florébert Cuypers and Florence Shaw.



NOTES TO EDITORS

Please reference *Varoom 29* if you mention any of the content in press or blogs. Thank you.
theaoi.com/varoom-mag

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**Association
of illustrators**

Association of Illustrators

Established in 1973 to promote illustration, advance and protect illustrators' rights and encourage professional standards. It has successfully increased the standing of illustration as a profession and improved commercial and ethical conditions of employment.

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