

varoom

Issue 38 - *Activism*

Published September 2018

Olivia Ahmad takes on the role of editor, starts with our upcoming Activism issue, “I’m totally thrilled to be taking on the editorship of *Varoom* – I’ve been a devoted reader since the first issue and I look forward to working with the team to publish outstanding illustration and spark debate about what it means to us all”. Olivia has expansive knowledge of the illustration world and has been curator at the House of Illustration in London since its inception.



With cover art by Bráulio Amado, the Activism issue of *Varoom* will reveal the innovative ways that illustrators today are using their work to effect social and political change around the world, opening with **Kennardphillipps** (UK) and their Trump/military drone montage *WARHEAD* (left)

Further content includes:

Guardian US journalist and illustrator **Mona Chalabi** (USA) explains how visualising complex data can be a force for change.

Artists Against Social Cleansing co-founder Emily Jost (UK) reveals the murky practice of artwashing taking place in British cities.

Creative Director **Stuart Lang** (UK) describes the potential pitfalls and rewards for businesses that

engage with social and political issues to create brand awareness.

Tings Chak (South Africa/Brazil) talks to Luise Vormittag about picturing the concealed living conditions in undocumented migrant detention centres in Canada.

Illustrator and activist **Jon Halls** (UK) discusses setting up a fictional property development company to advocate for the value of green spaces.

Tristan Manco introduces the monumental street art work of **Himed & Reyban** (Mexico) and explains why the long-standing tradition of stencil graffiti is still relevant in the digital age.

Paul Gravett meets **Samandal** (Lebanon), the comics collective battling state censorship and prosecution to tell their stories.

We talk to children's book publishers **Tara Books** (India), and find out more about their feminist adaptations of traditional stories and making the words of Karl Marx into a picture book.

Anna Steinburg observes **Seb Chaloner** (UK) throwing symbolic bricks through the windows of exclusive members' clubs for 'creative souls'.



Activist **Seth Tobocman** (USA) discusses his comic on the transportation of fracked oil through Albany, New York and the housing projects residents fighting it (above).

Clifford Harper (UK) claims artists' copyright as an anarchist form, and Olivia Ahmad talks to **GraphicDesign&'s Lucienne Roberts** (UK) about the role of graphics in activism today.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Please reference *Varoom 38 Activism* if you mention any of the content in press or blogs. Thank you. theaoi.com/varoom

Varoom – Activism

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Association of Illustrators

The AOI is the UK's leading illustration body, promoting, empowering and advancing illustrators and the illustration industry.

As a not for profit membership body we actively support illustrators. We provide members with bespoke business advice through our dedicated email and phone line as well as offering a website bursting with information and a range of publications.

Our public programme comprises awards and exhibitions such as the globally recognized World Illustration Awards, and a growing range of professionally enlightening talks and social events.

Through our campaigning work the AOI has successfully increased the standing of illustration as a profession and improved the commercial and ethical conditions of employment for illustrators.

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