

varoom

Issue 42: Intimacy

The UK's essential illustration magazine launches its biggest ever issue



From paranoia-tinged pandemic editorial for the likes of the *New York Times* to the body-based illustration of make-up artist Athena Paginton, the latest issue of *Varoom* looks at intimacy in the last year of image-making.

While our access to places and to each other has been curtailed and cut off, illustrators have been giving us new perspectives on domestic scenes, visualising rich inner worlds and helping us to stay mindful.

With art direction by Fraser Muggeridge studio, *Varoom* includes features on VR applications for wellbeing and the newly invested iconography of masks.

This issue's cover illustrator is UK-based Hannah Buckman. Her richly textured design is a view into an intimate interior inhabited by two figures merging together as they go about their daily routines.

Editor Olivia Ahmad says:

"The frame of our lives has been so much smaller over the last year, but illustration has been as broad and present as ever. On the street, in print and online, illustrators have visualised our collective responses to the pandemic, all the way from fear to frustration. At the same time they have created restorative moments of escapism, celebrated the small pleasures of everyday life and helped us to maintain our wellbeing. We are delighted to highlight this work as *Varoom* returns for the first time since lockdown began"

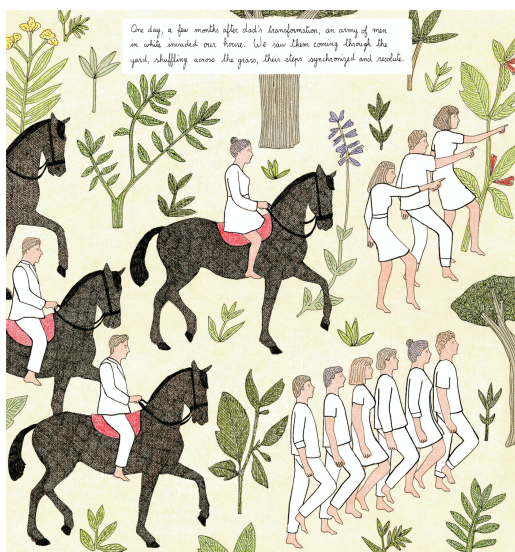
Selected Features



Alix-Rose Cowie interviews make-up artist Athena Paginton on the most intimate canvas of all and fusing fashion with activism.



Ritupriya Basu investigates new approaches to ancient Sanskrit text the *Kama Sutra*, a guide to pleasure and living well.



Paul Gravett talks to illustrator and author Marion Fayolle about her graphic novel account of her father's illness and death.

Notes to editors

Please reference **Varoom 42: Intimacy** in press or blog mentions - theaoi.com/varoom

Full details of issue contents are available [here](#).

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Varoom is published annually by the Association of Illustrators, edited by Olivia Ahmad and art directed and designed by Fraser Muggeridge studio.



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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