

## Press Release

10 January 2019

### The Poster Prize for Illustration 2019: London Stories

Opens Friday 8 February 2019

London Transport Museum



*Illustration by Julia Allum*

- **New exhibition of 100 illustrations opens 8 February until 14 July 2019**
- **Friday Late on 8 February 2019**
- **Public vote to choose the favourite illustration to add to London Transport Museum's collection**
- **Talks programme:**
  - Acclaimed writer Iain Sinclair talks about his own perspective on London
  - Social historians Travis Elborough and Joe Kerr discuss the fascination that Londoners have with the London bus
  - BBC broadcaster and author Robert Elms discusses the ever-changing London metropolis

A new exhibition featuring 100 illustrations opens on 8 February at London Transport Museum and celebrates one of the world's greatest cities – London – revealing some of the fascinating tales of London life past and present.

From urban myths, historic events and remarkable characters, to daily lives and adventurous animals, the exhibition offers new perspectives and insights into the cultural history and heritage of London. London Stories reveals the wealth of real and fictional tales and events inspired by, or having taken place in London, and embraces the quirky, amusing and bizarre as well as the day to day aspects of life in the capital.

The illustrated stories include the Cross Bones Graveyard, a ghost bus, St Pineapple's Cathedral, the Faceless Woman of Becontree, and the baffling story of an intrepid rabbit travelling alone on London Underground. From Tottenham Marshes and Tooting Lido to Kew Gardens and the Empire Windrush arriving at Tilbury Docks, the exhibition is inspirational for both the savviest of Londoners and those wanting to learn more about the real and fictitious stories and events that give London its identity.

The 100 illustrations are the shortlisted entries in a competition organised by the Association of Illustrators (AOI) in partnership with London Transport Museum. Artists were invited to create an illustration that visually captures a well-known or obscure London narrative; stories that are contemporary or historical, real or imagined. Over 1,500 illustrations were submitted by professionals and students from around the world. The London Stories exhibition will showcase 100 of the best which were chosen by an independent panel of judges made up of experts from the art and design world.

The winner will receive £2,000 and their illustration will be displayed on London Underground as a poster. The Silver and Bronze prizes are £1,000 and £750. For the first time ever there will also be a fourth prize which will be chosen through a public vote in the Exterior Media gallery, where the exhibition takes place. The winning illustration will be permanently accessioned into London Transport Museum's collection.

Organised by London Transport Museum in partnership with the AOI, each illustration is accompanied by a short text written by the artists summarising the inspiration behind their creation.

The Poster Prize for Illustration continues Transport for London's legacy of design that dates back over 100 years. London Transport Museum's collection of graphic art is one of the best in the world and includes over 5,000 posters and artworks by famous artists including Man

Ray, Edward McKnight Kauffer, Dora Batty, Paul Nash and Enid Marx, London Stories closes on 14 July 2019.

The London Stories exhibition is displayed in the Exterior Media Gallery at London Transport Museum, Covent Garden Piazza, London, WC2E 7BB and admission is included in the entry ticket to the main Museum galleries (prices for adults start from £16.00 online). Tickets allow unlimited daytime admission to the Museum galleries and temporary exhibitions for a whole year from the date of purchase. For further information visit [www.ltmuseum.co.uk](http://www.ltmuseum.co.uk) or call 020 7565 7298.

### **London Stories launch evening Friday Late**

Guests can explore the exhibition after hours and enjoy the launch evening of the London Stories exhibition during our **Friday Late** on 8 February 2019. There will be a bar, DJ and captivating lectures, workshops and activities. With a cocktail in hand, visitors can listen to tales of travel and romance, discover the history of hidden pride, and unearth the secret signs of stories that can be discovered all over town if you know where to look. The London Stories Friday Late is from 19:00 to 22:00 and entry is £15/£12. Adults only.

### **Talks programme**

#### **Living with Buildings and Walking with Ghosts, with Iain Sinclair**

*Thursday 21 February 2019 – 19:00, lasts approximately one and a half hours*

London has inspired countless stories and perspectives over time, but as sweeping changes take place, what lies on the other side for the capital and those who inhabit it? Join Iain Sinclair as he recounts his own perspective on the city he has written about for many years, and what remains or begins for life after London.

#### **Bus Fare: Stories of the London Bus**

*Thursday 21 March 2019 – 19:00, lasts approximately one and a half hours*

Instantly recognizable, endlessly imitated: London's buses are iconic. Not merely a vital component of the city's infrastructure, they are equally embedded in its culture; written about, sung about, joked about, filmed, painted (and painted on), advertised, and celebrated in myriad ways.

Social historians Travis Elborough and Joe Kerr embark on a journey celebrating the unique relationship that Londoners have with one of the most iconic modes of transport and discuss what routes are best loved and why. Elborough and Kerr, and contributors to their new anthology *Bus Fare*, reveal all.

## **London Made Us: A memoir of a Shape-Shifting City**

*Thursday 4 April 2019 – 19:00, lasts approximately one and a half hours*

BBC broadcaster and author Robert Elms will take you back through time and place to a myriad of Londons. 'London is a giant kaleidoscope which is forever turning. Take your eye off it for more than a moment and you're lost.'

***All the talks take place in the Cubic Theatre at London Transport Museum, Covent Garden Piazza, London, WC2E 7BB. Tickets cost £12/£10 and advance booking is available at [www.ltmuseum.co.uk](http://www.ltmuseum.co.uk).***

**Ends**

<b>For media requests, interviews and images please contact</b>	
<b>London Transport Museum</b> Claudia Pearson - Marketing Executive Phone 020 7126 1807 Email <a href="mailto:claudia.pearson@ltmuseum.co.uk">claudia.pearson@ltmuseum.co.uk</a>	For further information, please see: <a href="http://www.ltmuseum.co.uk">www.ltmuseum.co.uk</a>
<b>Association of Illustrators</b> Sabine Reimer - Awards Manager Phone 020 7759 1012 Email <a href="mailto:sabine@theaoi.com">sabine@theaoi.com</a>	Follow us on Twitter and Facebook at: <a href="https://twitter.com/ltmuseum">https://twitter.com/ltmuseum</a>  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/ltmuseum">https://www.facebook.com/ltmuseum</a>  <a href="http://www.theaoi.com">www.theaoi.com</a>

### **Editors notes:**

#### **About the Poster Prize for Illustration 2019 judging panel:**

- Derek Brazell, Projects Manager, Association of Illustrators
- Roger Browning, Art Editor (Lifestyle), Country Living
- Jason Cotterrell, Group Chief Strategy Officer and UK Managing Director, Exterion Media
- Brian Grimwood, Managing Director, Central Illustration Agency
- Miranda Leedham, Head of Customer Marketing and Behaviour Change, Transport for London
- Steve Pill, Editor, Artists & Illustrators, BRITAIN and Discover Britain magazines
- Rachael Stevens, Associate Editor, Creative Review
- Michael Walton, Poster Art Commissioner, London Transport Museum
- Brian Webb, Director, Webb and Webb Design

- Sarah Thomson, Head of Art Production, Ogilvy & Mather (1 Unilever)

### **About London Transport Museum**

- London Transport Museum is situated in the heart of Covent Garden and filled with stunning exhibits; the Museum explores the powerful link between transport and the growth of modern London, culture and society since 1800. Historic vehicles, world-famous posters and the very best objects from the Museum's extraordinary collection are brought together to tell the story of London's development and the part transport played in defining the unique identity of the city.
- London Transport Museum is an educational and heritage preservation charity. Its purpose is to conserve and explain the history of London's transport, to offer people an understanding of the Capital's past development and to engage them in the debate about its future. The Museum's charity number is 1123122.
- London Transport Museum is supported by public funding from Arts Council England
- London Transport Museum opening hours:
  - Daily 10.00 to 18.00 (last admission 17.15)
- Public information:
  - Talks & events bookings: +44 (0)20 7565 7298
  - Switchboard: +44 (0)20 7379 6344 - general information
  - Address: Covent Garden Piazza, WC2E 7BB
  - 24 hour information: +44 (0)20 7565 7299
- [www.ltmuseum.co.uk](http://www.ltmuseum.co.uk)

### **About the Association of Illustrators**

- The Association of Illustrators (AOI) is the UK's leading illustration body supporting and sustaining illustrators and the illustration industry. Established in 1973 the AOI offers members professional support, online resources and a growing programme of events. The AOI has successfully increased the standing of illustration as a profession and improved commercial and ethical conditions. With a membership that includes freelance illustrators, agents, students and colleges the AOI continues to educate future generations and support illustrators at every stage of their career. It publishes the biannual Varoom magazine and has run juried illustration Awards, such as the World Illustration Awards, for over 40 years.
- The Association of Illustrators, telephone: 020 7759 1010, email: [info@theaoi.com](mailto:info@theaoi.com), [www.theaoi.com](http://www.theaoi.com)