

Russian revolutionary posters

David King



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144 pages

Revue de presse

'A copy of this book should be in every public library, in every secondary school and in the hands of anyone who aspires to understand what has made Russia the state it is today... Buy one to keep and one to give away. --Literary Review

This visually potent survey is packed with more than 165 politically charged posters, all culled from the author's personal collection of Soviet placards. Proceeding from the October Revolution through to Stalin's death and dramatically oscillating in style between avant-garde paroxysms and socialist realist schlock the best of them still crackle with the febrile dreams of a better world. --Metropolis Présentation de l'éditeur Russian Revolutionary Posters tells the story of the development of the Soviet poster, from the revolutionary period through to the death of Stalin, revealing the way in which tumultuous events within the Soviet Union were matched by equally dramatic shifts in graphic art and design. Written and designed by David King, one of the world's foremost experts on Soviet art and himself an internationally acclaimed graphic designer, the publication features posters drawn from his unparalleled collection, well known to visitors to Tate Modern in London. The book is arranged chronologically. Captions accompany each poster, explaining the historical and artistic context in which it was produced. Constructivist posters, socialist advertising, film posters of the 1920s, classic photomontage, the heroic posters of the Great Patriotic War, biting political satire and the cult of personality of the Stalin years are all here. The great names of Soviet poster design, including Alexander Rodchenko, El Lissitsky, Gustav Klutsis, Dimitri Moor, Viktor Demi and Nina Vatolina, all feature. However, some of the most arresting posters reproduced were created anonymously or by scarcely known artists whose work will be a revelation to many. King takes us behind the scenes, explaining the process involved in the commissioning of the posters and the key figures who coordinated poster campaigns, providing personal histories of the art directors and creative directors whose vision played such a vital role in soviet poster design. With an insightful introduction and over 165 images, some of which have never been seen before, this beautifully produced book will be the definitive survey of the subject for many years to come Biographie de l'auteur

David King is the author of The Commissar Vanishes: The Falsification of Photographs and Art in Stalin's Russia (1997) and Red Star Over Russia: A Visual History of the Soviet Union from 1917 to the Death of Stalin (2010). He was art editor of The Sunday Times between 1965 and 1975 and is the owner of one of the world's pre-eminent collection of Russian artefacts.

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