

CREATIVE REVIEW

The Best in Visual Communication

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CR





Landscape as portrait

In his book, *We English*, photographer Simon Roberts looks at contemporary English leisure in all its collective glory

Like a well-planned domestic family holiday, photographer Simon Roberts' journey around England for his latest book was a mission in itself. He took his Talbot Express Swift Capri motorhome (plus family) and a hefty 5x4 large-format camera on a quest to capture the

English at leisure. *We English*, the result of his year spent on the road, is far from being a nostalgia trip; it is a document of free time – be it spent at the races or at the beach – as English people experience it today.

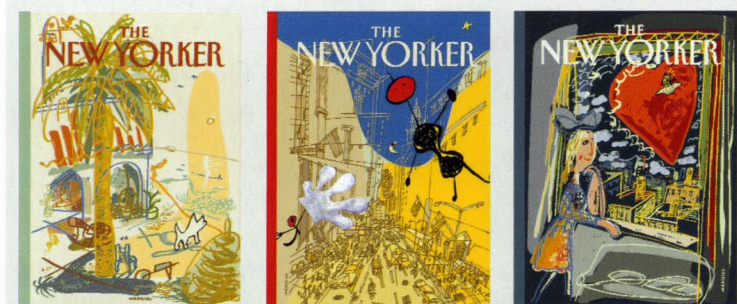
Roberts approached his project with the view that one's experience of

landscape is vital to the national make-up. In his previous book, *Motherland*, he looked in from an outsider's point of view, recording Russians' attachment to their native country. Returning to England, and through the 56 colour images taken between the summers of 2007/8, he charts how the landscape influences and shapes the English. While many of Roberts' images adhere to our traditional notions of beauty spots, others are of noisy, packed events like Derby Day. In each, however, the framing is such that the subjects are

ABOVE: Skegness Beach, 12th August 2007 and Mad Maldon Mud Race, River Blackwater, 30th December 2007 by Simon Roberts

fixed firmly within their environment. Individuals are rendered small but, significantly, we can still read them by their expressions, their clothes and what they're doing. It's a technique that links back to landscape painting and the layered canvases of the 16th-century. As a contemporary record, however, Roberts has captured a nation beautifully and brilliantly. ■

Chris Boot; £40. chrisboot.com, we-english.co.uk



Javier Mariscal: Drawing Life

Published to coincide with his show at London's Design Museum (which runs until November), *Drawing Life* is a very personal take on the work of designer and illustrator Javier Mariscal. The book does well to invoke Mariscal's ability to work in any creative medium, from editorial illustration (New Yorker covers, shown), through to identity and product design, film, animation and, possibly his most recognisable forté, mascot design (22 pages are dedi-

cated to the Barcelona Olympics' Cobi, for example). Mariscal wrote and designed the book and, unlike most retrospectives, has also freshened up the artwork contained within, claiming that his art is always evolving, that nothing is ever finished. With that in mind, Mariscal offers up a wealth of highlights from a 30-year career that seems far from reaching its end.

Phaidon; £39.95. phaidon.com

Unfolded Paper in Design, Art, Architecture and Industry

One of the most beautiful books CR has received this year, *Unfolded* looks at that most malleable material: paper. Petra Schmidt and Nicola Stattmann have sourced a range of work made in

anything from carbon fibre paper to ceramic paper. Forget origami, this book shows paper at the cutting edge.

Birkhäuser; £45. birkhauser.ch

