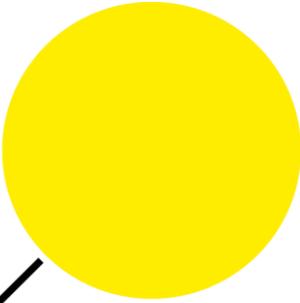


Utrecht, 4 november 2019



**CENTRAAL
MUSEUM**
UTRECHT

DICK BRUNA AND UTRECHT: FOREVER TOGETHER **FROM 9 NOVEMBER IN CENTRAAL MUSEUM UTRECHT**

On 9 November, an exhibition on the mutually affectionate relationship between Dick Bruna and the city of Utrecht will open at Centraal Museum. Presenting designs, historical objects, photographs and videos, the exhibition explores this bond from various angles. The exhibition makes clear that the Utrecht graphic designer, draughtsman and picture book author is truly an icon of the city.



Icon of Utrecht

Born in Utrecht in 1927, Dick Bruna is mainly known for his picture books, especially the 'nijntje' or 'Miffy' books, popular among millions of children worldwide. This exhibition shows how his achievements extend much further, and especially how much he has done for the city of Utrecht. His iconic 1986 design, '*Utrecht stad naar mijn hart*' ('Utrecht city of my heart') played an important role in the promotion and image of the city. The design was the first in a series of similar designs which Bruna created throughout the years to mark various occasions in the city. Many organisations and businesses in Utrecht were also eager to commission his work. Not surprisingly, the artist was a two-time recipient of the city medal. In addition to Bruna's designs, the exhibition displays photographs showing the many places around the city that are or were related to the artist's life and work.

Postadres
Postbus 2106
3500 GC Utrecht

Museumadres
Agnietenstraat 1
3512 XA Utrecht

Bezoekadres
Agnietenstraat 3
3512 XA Utrecht

Contact
T +31 (0)30 236 2362
centraalmuseum.nl

Zwarte Beertjes

Dick Bruna's career started in 1952 when he joined the publishing company A.W. Bruna & Zoon. He was to spend fifteen years there, during which time he developed his own signature style. He came to fame for his designs of the covers of the Zwarte Beertjes pocket books, but also as an independent picture book author. The exhibition displays various pocket book covers and posters of the Zwarte Beertjes.

Utrecht artist

Dick Bruna also participated actively in Utrecht's art world, as a member of the art societies De Engelenzang and Genootschap Kunstliefde. He made murals and silk screen prints and exhibited his work at various sites, including the annual art fair and in Centraal Museum. A range of photographs and articles depict these relations. As an independent designer, Bruna produced designs for various Utrecht institutions throughout his career. Clients included the Utrecht art fair, the Wilhelmina children's hospital, Bloeyendaal Park and the Pastoe furniture factory.

Minimalist picture book style

All of Bruna's designs stand out for their deliberate simplicity, clarity, and the limited number of colours. His style did develop over the years: he initially pursued an artistic-experimental style for the Zwarte Beertjes covers, but with the growing popularity of his picture books, he increasingly applied his minimalist style to commissioned work as well.

Dick Bruna was much loved by the people of Utrecht. After his death, football fans of FC Utrecht displayed a banner showing Miffy shedding a tear. This banner is on display in the exhibition, alongside related graffiti by the Utrecht graffiti artist KBTR. The exhibition also displays a number of portraits of Dick Bruna made by well-known artists.

Dick Bruna and Utrecht: Forever Together is on display from Saturday 9 November on the second floor of Centraal Museum, where visitors can also visit the reconstruction of Dick Bruna's studio.

For questions or high res. images, please contact pers@centraalmuseum.nl.