

Utrecht, 20 August 2015

## Studio Dick Bruna

**Dick Bruna's original studio will be a permanent exhibit at the Centraal Museum**

**Date: From 19 September 2015**

**Centraal Museum, Agnietenstraat 1, Utrecht, The Netherlands**

Dick Bruna (Utrecht, 1927), one of the Netherlands' most famous illustrators and graphic designers, retired as an artist in 2011. For the last 30 years of his career, he worked at his studio in the centre of Utrecht daily. This was where he created his illustrations and stories, surrounded by personal memories, photos of memorable encounters, gifts from fans and letters from fellow artists. From 19 September 2015 Dick Bruna's original studio will be a permanent exhibit at the Centraal Museum in Utrecht (The Netherlands), where it will serve as a showcase for a changing selection of works from his rich oeuvre.



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## Studio Dick Bruna

The studio reconstructed at the Centraal Museum is set up in an attic like the original studio where Dick Bruna created his illustrations and typed out his stories. This was also where he relaxed while waiting for inspiration and where he entertained guests. The interior has been reassembled with the original furniture: Dick Bruna's drawing board, his desk and typewriter, and the book collection that includes all editions of his own books. All of the details have been accurately recreated: the cards, the photos of friends, family and colleagues, the pencils, scissors and rulers lined up neatly on his drawing board, his personal stationery and, of course, his own work. There is even a place for the bike he rode through the streets of Utrecht on his daily journey to work. To visit the studio is to enter the world of Dick Bruna.

Visitors will discover the many aspects of Dick Bruna's work and the methods he used. Display cases will show a changing selection of works from the Dick Bruna collection, which has been placed with the Centraal Museum on long-term loan. The more than 7,000 works in the collection range from book covers for Zwarte Beertjes paperbacks to designs for humanitarian organisations such as the Red Cross and, of course, the world-famous Miffy storybooks.

See also <http://centraalmuseum.nl/en/visit/exhibitions/studio-dick-bruna/>.

## Dick Bruna

Dick Bruna started drawing and painting at a young age. He designed thousands of book covers and posters for the publishing company founded by his great-grandfather, A.W. Bruna & Zoon. He also produced many works on commission. While in Paris at the end of the 1940s he was inspired by artists such as Henri Matisse and Fernand Léger. This led him to develop his own distinct style, which is characterised by its simplicity, clarity and understated humour. He experimented with collage, simplification of line and blocks of colour. When designing book covers he worked freely, incorporating newspaper cuttings, photos and pieces of wrapping paper in his creative and original images. It was this same freedom that led him to create his first picture books in the 1950s.

No matter whether he was designing a book cover for one of the Havank paperbacks in the Zwarte Beertjes series, children's books such as *the apple* or *Miffy*, a poster for the Dutch Dairy Board or a card for the *World Peace Is Possible* movement, Dick Bruna always managed to convey the essence through his simple clear design. Dutch design is characterised by simplicity and clarity. Dick Bruna's work is consistent with this tradition. The elimination of all superfluous details, reducing the image to its most basic elements is the hallmark of his style.

## 60 Years of Miffy

The installation of Dick Bruna's studio at the Centraal Museum in 2015 coincides with the 60th anniversary of the first appearance of Miffy, which is being celebrated throughout the year. Visit the official Miffy website for more information: <http://www.miffy.com/60-years-miffy/>.



## Note to the editor (not for publication)

- For more information about the presentation of the studio and/or the Centraal Museum: Manou Nonnekes (Marketing & Communication), [mnonnekes@centraalmuseum.nl](mailto:mnonnekes@centraalmuseum.nl), +31 (0)30 236 2311 / +31 (0)61 132 6533.
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