

BARREL FOLK

an illustrated TOUR OF BELFAST'S BEST BARS



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#BarrelFolk

USFOLK



Jameson Irish Whiskey in NI, in collaboration with Belfast's first and only illustration agency, UsFolk, are excited to announce *Barrel Folk*. Much like Jameson's world famous triple distilled whiskey, *Barrel Folk* is a unique exhibition blending together the rich distilling history of Jameson Irish Whiskey, the craic of Belfast's most renowned and award-winning bars, and the best in contemporary Irish illustration. Eight Jameson Whiskey barrels have been beautifully hand-painted with each bar in mind. Using their unique histories, famous characters, and the bustling atmosphere of the city streets.

UsFolk have brought together eight of Ireland's best contemporary illustrators to bring their unique styles and ideas to each barrel. Founded in 2016, UsFolk have already worked with a wide range of local and international clients, supporting and promoting the work of both young and established artists across the island and beyond. *Barrel Folk* provides another amazing opportunity to showcase our talented collective of young illustrators alongside the world's number 1 Irish Whiskey.

Sláinte!



The Northern Whig

Illustrator – Ruan Van Vliet

The Northern Whig has stood on the corner of Bridge Street for nearly 200 years and been home to a gentlemen's club, a newspaper and now one of the Cathedral Quarter's classiest bars. As an ode to its publishing and printing history, front page news is splashed across the barrel, with 'photos' of patrons imbibing and basking in the area's bustling energy.

Ruan Van Vliet

Ruan is an Irish illustrator based in Dublin. Everyday objects and characters are given an enormous sense of fun with his bright choice of colour and simple crayon smiles. Brightening up the pages of magazines, record sleeves and window displays.

 ruanvanvliet.com



The Dirty Onion

Illustrator – Jacky Sheridan

In a building which has seen many thousands of bottles, crates and barrels of Jameson Whiskey pass through it in its years as a bonded spirit warehouse, The Dirty Onion now stands as another staple Irish bar of the Cathedral Quarter, but with a modern twist. Playful typography of traditional pub sayings pair with fun illustrations to epitomise the old Irish saying 'Is túisce deoch ná sceal' / 'a drink comes before a story'.

Jacky Sheridan

Jacky is an Irish illustrator based between Belfast and Dublin, whose distinctive linework, typography and unrestrained sense of humour set her work apart when tackling modern day life, subjects and characters for a range of editorial and advertising clients.

 jackysheridan.com



Visit Belfast Welcome Centre

Illustrator – Mel Carroll

As an island we are known throughout the world for our rich history of whiskey distilling, but when it comes to Northern Ireland, we could not be more proud of the fact that our wee country is the location for one of the biggest television phenomenons. The hit US show's infamous dragons fly across the whiskey barrel giving a nod to the Jameson Coopers who char each barrel to give Jameson its distinct flavour.

Mel Carroll

Mel is a designer, illustrator and the founder of UsFolk Illustration agency in Belfast. Through UsFolk he is pushing and supporting a network of new and established illustrators in Northern Ireland.

 usfolk.co.uk



Henry's

Illustrator – Thomas Bannon

Named after the romanticised political figure and industrialist, Henry Joy McCracken, this bar is situated in one of Belfast's most iconic entryways. Letterpress typography spells out his name as an ode to the Joy Family founding and printing the Belfast News Letter in the Entry, the same in which Henry was imprisoned before meeting his fate a few hundred yards away in Corn Market.

Thomas Bannon

Thomas is a Northern Irish illustrator based in Belfast who creates thoughtfully designed and colourful work using mixed media textures and coloured pencils. He enjoys blurring the line between fantasy and reality, and is inspired by everything from the natural landscape to the fonts used on mustard packaging.

 thomasbannon.co.uk



Sunflower

Illustrator – David McMillan

With the sign outside declaring 'No Topless Bathing. Ulster has suffered enough' you already know what kind of bar you're about to walk into, even if you have to enter through a Troubles-era security cage. Friendly and welcoming to everyone, The Sunflower continues to be one of the best public houses in the city. Though you may get a few looks if you're enjoying a wee Jameson au natural.

David McMillan

David is a Northern Irish illustrator based in Bristol. Using a mixture of pencils and mark-making, as well as a love for bold colours and traditional printmaking, he creates work for a wide range of editorial and advertising clients.

 davidjcmillan.co.uk



Bullitt

Illustrator – Conor McClure

This recent addition to Belfast's vibrant and boutique hospitality sector, Bullitt offers a stunning backdrop to any night out. With live music, breathtaking, romantic views across the city, and the artistry of their bartenders serving up beautiful cocktails as the perfect accoutrements for couples looking to escape for the night. This design encapsulates the magic of one such night away.

Conor McClure

Conor is a Northern Irish illustrator and artist based in Belfast whose work focuses on portraiture and the human form. Using graphic elements, typography and mixed mark-making he creates atmospheric work that translates into both client commissions and large scale street art murals.

 conormcclure.com



The National

Illustrator – Conor Nolan

Breakfast? Brunch? Cocktail? The exposed walls of this listed Victorian bank building give The National the perfect backdrop to its lively, chic atmosphere. Bustling scenes take place under its interiors distinctive hanging plants and beaming natural light, where groups of friends can gather below to enjoy a chat, some food or even a glass of Jameson Whiskey.

Conor Nolan

Conor is an Irish illustrator and designer living and working in Dublin, whose work can be characterised by its expressive and energetic brush strokes, bold, eye-catching shapes and characters, and a layering of colours inspired by the aesthetics of screen printing.

 conornolan.net

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