

THE SUNDAY TIMES *spectrum*

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OUR WORLD THIS WEEK

Pictures from the
front line of life



TOY STORY

The photographs on these pages and on the cover use models that are about the size of Barbie dolls. They are by Paolo Ventura, who combined his skills as a model-maker and photographer to create an imaginary world to tell the life story of a fictional Italian circus performer. The project began with simple pencil drawings that became templates for sets built with old furniture from flea markets. Next he handcrafted a cast of model clowns, tightrope walkers and lion tamers. On completion he took hundreds of Polaroids of each scene until he was completely satisfied — and took the final frame. A limited edition of his book, *Winter Stories* (published by Contrasto), is available now. Visit www.contrastobooks.com

