



 **MUSA CHOWDHURY**

Pyongyang Maternity Hospital in North Korea was one of the strangest and most enigmatic places Chowdhury had ever photographed. Dimly lit corridors lay beneath the Orwellian gaze of Kim Il-sung and Kim Jong-il, keeping watch from portraits hung at clinically regular intervals. 'I was shown onto wards containing row upon row of identically wrapped, newborn babies,' he explains. 'I learned North Korea's obsessive fascination

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 D700, AF-S NIKKOR 24-70mm f2.8G ED, ISO 200, 1/100 at f2.8

with triplets and the peculiar nature of their upbringing. The overwhelming pride and excitement the staff displayed was clear, but having become accustomed to shy and reserved people – I found their enthusiasm and emotion in this context slightly disturbing. For a country shrouded in secrecy and given the way my itinerary was controlled, I was baffled by my hosts' openness and the implications of what I was being shown.'

