

PAUL STOLPER

PETER BLAKE – THE LONDON SUITE

Peter Blake, known to many as the father of British Pop Art, has created ten new prints, entitled *The London Suite*, inspired by the city in which he lives and works. Published by the gallery, this edition marks the next stop on Blake's 'world tour,' which has previously included Venice (The Venice Suite 2009) and Paris (The Paris Suite 2010.)

Depicting imagined, fairytale visions of the city, the prints draw from a host of source material. Blake's trademark collage style incorporates images culled from postcards, photographs and second-hand books. The prints reveal fantastical scenes of the city, evoking the magical atmosphere of a place enshrouded in history and romance and imbued with Blake's wonderfully surreal sensibility.

River Thames - Regatta, for example, depicts various types of boats alongside wild creatures processing down the Thames. Set in front of the Houses of Parliament, hot air balloons and zeppelins fly overhead. The new series sees comic book characters convening in Piccadilly Circus in one print, a menagerie of animals scaling Westminster Abbey in another, and characters, dancers and animals parading down the iconic Abbey Road.

Sir Peter Blake won the 1961 John Moores junior award for *Self Portrait with Badges*, one of his most well known works. Others include *The First Real Target*, *On the Balcony*, and the sleeve artwork for The Beatles' album *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*. Blake was made a Royal Academician in 1981, a CBE in 1983 for his services to art and became the third Associate Artist of the National Gallery London in 1994. He received an Honorary Doctorate from the Royal College of Art in 1998.

The London Suite will be on view at Paul Stolper Gallery from 11th of July – 1st of September 2012.