

# PAUL STOLPER

## Peter Blake: The Venice Suite

22 January – 28 February 2009

### Venice provides inspiration for a beautiful new series of prints by Peter Blake

Peter Blake, known to many as the father of British Pop Art, has created twenty new prints, entitled *The Venice Suite*, inspired by his recent experiences in the Italian city.

Depicting an imagined, fairytale vision of the city, the prints draw from a host of source material and were inspired by the artist's 2007 visit to the Venice Art Biennale. Blake's trademark collage style incorporates images culled from postcards, photographs and second-hand books, including details from familiar old masters alongside illustrations from vintage children's books.

The prints reveal fantastical scenes of the city against backgrounds of blues, greys, greens and muted yellows, evoking the magical atmosphere of a place enshrouded in myth and romance and imbued with Blake's wonderfully surreal sensibility. *Christ's Entry into Venice*, for example, depicts Jesus riding into St Mark's Square as crowds of businessmen, tourists and figures from anthropological photographs guide his way, while *Icebergs in Venice* shows a surreal vision of the future where climate change is reversed and men and cherubs alike attempt to escape the cold as it descends on the beautiful sunlit buildings. In others, exotic menageries of animals gather before iconic palazzos and butterflies and acrobats look down on the Rialto from the night sky.

*The Venice Suite* is the first part of a series that will see Blake embark on a world tour, a recurrent theme in the artist's career. He has already begun to create a Paris series, and plans to create prints of other iconic cities as he travels, including London and New York.

"Venice has been an inspiring place for me since my first visit in 1957 on a scholarship. I spend my life collecting images, newspaper cuttings and vintage postcards which find their way into my work, and Venice has proven to be a treasure-trove of material. I returned to the city in 2007 and found some beautiful embroideries and illustrations which will become part of future works", he says.

### Notes to editors

British Pop artist, **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. Recent solo exhibitions include the Fine Art, Design and Antiques Fair, London 2006, Waddington Galleries, London 2005 and the National Touring Exhibition in 2001.

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**Paul Stolper** has worked with Peter Blake to create many print series including 'Love': a portfolio of 10 silkscreen prints with diamond dust.

His gallery was established his gallery in 1998 and moved to his current premises on Museum Street in Central London in October 2008. As well as showing work by up and coming artists, the gallery exhibits and publishes new editions, portfolios, prints and multiples with established artists such as Damien Hirst, Gavin Turk, Jeremy Deller and Keith Coventry. The gallery is dedicated to a schedule of exhibitions that includes solo exhibitions, group shows and curated exhibitions.

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Images are downloadable at [www.theresasimon.com/press](http://www.theresasimon.com/press)**

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