Peter Clark

From animals created from maps, labels and discarded tickets, to garments carefully crafted from gift wrapping, musical scores and love letters, Peter Clark has the rare ability to turn ordinary printed matter into exquisite works of art with character, beauty and wit. Whether it's at a car boot sale in Chiswick, an antiques fair in Sussex, or further afield to flea markets in France, USA, Japan and India, he travels far and wide to source materials for his next pieces.

Each of Peter's wonderfully detailed creations is sparked by a word or phrase that strikes him somehow and sends him off to the dictionary to really study and think about how he can illustrate the concept. His explanation of the work is disarmingly simple: "I interpret the written word, hopefully with humor!" There is, of course, much more to it than that; and it always starts out with his first love: drawing!

"I look at collage rather like music mixing and multiculturalism: exciting and, if done sensitively, it can go anywhere and do anything. But you must avoid the "you can do anything on computers these days' syndrome." To that end, Peter resists computer manipulation and photocopying, preferring instead to do hands-on work with actual pieces of paper and glue.

BIOGRAPHY

Born in Yorkshire in 1944, Peter Clark grew up in the North of England in a tiny farming community. He remembers sketching and compiling study books from things he saw on nature walks at an early age. Peter then studied at Manchester College of Art and Design from 1962-1966.

He started by having a prolific career in design and illustration (notably holding senior positions at Granada Television (London & Manchester) and NBC (Los Angeles)), in addition to freelance commissions for advertising, editorial, TV and publishing throughout the world.

For the most part, he worked in his home studio, a large ground floor room next door to the studio of his wife, Karen Nicol, a textile artist. As Peter was working happily enough with the varied media and the various jobs, he began to notice bits of collage material insinuating themselves into the illustrations.

One day, he was playing with some "printed nonsense" text from his computer and randomly made it into a dog that several of the people who were working for Karen loved. Thus, he decided to do more animals, with more papers. That is how, in 1999, Peter began creating his first commissioned collages. From then on the demand for his work has snowballed, leading to him becoming a full-time artist with works in private and public collections worldwide."

Mainly based in London, Peter Clark is represented all over the world, from Michael Carr's gallery in Sydney, to Gilman Contemporary in Idaho USA.

EXHIBITIONS

2022

AAF Bruxelles

2020
Portland Gallery, London

2019
Portland Gallery, London

2018
Portland Gallery, London

2016
Galerie Portland, Londres

2015
Gilman Contemporary Gallery, Idaho USA

2014
Rebecca Hossack Gallery, NYC

2013
Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London

2012
Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London

2011
Rebecca Hossack Gallery, NYC

2010
Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London
CODA Museum, Apeldoorn Holland
Holland Paper Biennale, Rijswik Holland

2009
Paul Smith, London

2008
Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London

2007
Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London
Paul Smith, NYC
Paul Smith, LA

2005
Paul Smith, LA

2003
Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London
Paul Smith, Milan

2002
Michael Carr Gallery, Sydney

2000
Gabrielle Skelton Limited, London