

# Art in pop & style

Springing from the Gravesend School of Art and then, in the early 1950s, from the Royal College of Art, Peter Blake became one of Britain's best know pop artists by the end of the decade. During the 60s his work became internationally renowned, not least from the fantastic canvas of the 12-inch album sleeve. Artists of many types were commissioned

for album art, and quite a number became famous.

Blake's cover for the Beatles' **Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band** was proof of the high regard for his work, as well as a signpost of the full flowering of pop art into the commercial world. Book covers, prints, posters and all manner of media became canvasses alongside the albums, and Blake added his touch to collages and found items to emphasise the growing adoption of icons as daily reference points. Marilyn Monroe, James Dean and various music stars were given equal standing with world leaders and world events. There is irony, humour and deftness of touch in Blake's work of the period, which he has managed to retain throughout his long career.

Alongside his personal work, Blake held teaching positions at St. Martin's School in the early 60s and a 12-year tenure at the Royal College of Art from 1964.

During the 70s Blake expanded

his scope to watercolours and was a founder of the Brotherhood of Ruralists. By the 80s Blake was back in London and was awarded the C.B.E. in 1983. He continued to work in many fields, not least music. The Who, Pentangle, Paul Weller and Oasis have been other recipients of his talents.

Awarded a knighthood in 2002, Sir Peter is still active, including work for Liverpool's European Capital Of Culture status in 2008.

## School for thought

Strange coincidences occur, none more so that when key stage 1 pupils in a Budleigh school were set the task of preparing self-portraits, in the style of Sir Peter Blake. Unknown to the teacher, Brook Gallery had already negotiated for Sir Peter to visit the gallery for the opening of his exclusive exhibition in March.

The children will receive a visit from Sir Peter at the school. The three images below show their work so far on the project.



## montage of generations

AN EXHIBITION OF WORK BY SIR PETER BLAKE RA

20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH - 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2008



Fore Street - Budleigh Salterton - Devon - Tel/Fax: 01395 443 003



open 10.30am - 5pm

closed Sunday mornings