

# MARTIN GROVER

## The Peoples Limousine

21<sup>st</sup> August – 18<sup>th</sup> October



UpDown Gallery is excited to announce our second exhibition with artist Martin Grover. After a hugely successful first show, in 2014, Grover's unique style has made him a gallery favourite.

Entitled 'The People's Limousine', Grover's re-imagined name for the red double decker bus, where the mundane becomes the sublime.

The exhibition will include a room full of new beautifully constructed and painted bus stop signs, Grover brings the outside object indoors, and the interior thought to the surface, with day dream destinations such as: 'The Promised Lane', 'Healing Common', 'Artificial Intelligence and Real Stupidity' and 'Cured Romantics'

The work carries the content with humour, but there is a more subtle wit to the images and the words. In a historical line that stretches on one side to Magritte and the European Surrealism, and Peter Blake's British Pop Art on the other, there is a play with iconography and language where a bus stop terminus is accurately named 'Anger Lane'.

The poetic journey continues in the exquisite silk screen prints, such as the liberatingly entitled 'Certificate of Artistic Licence', or a colour saturated view of a distant wendy house called 'Portal'.

Grover's bus journey can even become a dark spiritual quest through 'The Seven Deadly Sins', or in a more melancholic mood, the 'Last Request Stop'. More consoling, a list is provided 'For the Listless', but more realistically the balloons are deflating in 'Down'.

The imagery and handling of paint and screen blockout fluid in Martin's work uses a visual language designed for print by artists such as Eric Bawden and Eric Ravilious, who worked for Penguin's paperback editions and London Transport poster campaigns, which now have a feeling of nostalgia for a previous age where art was used to coax the people to use public transport to see the world, and read a book on the way. Grover's world is an analogue world, and it works. Look at the sharp qualities of the drawing where the scanning is done by eye and hand using a sharp mind.

Although Simon Patterson's wonderful work 'The Great Bear' plays with the nodal diagram invented by Harry Beck, Martin Grover's lovingly hand painted text on his stops are also in the associative font, but the poetry is more influenced by Ian Dury's 'The Bus Driver's Prayer', but even Dury credits those lyrics to Anon.

### **How do you take that journey? Climb aboard 'The People's Limousine'!**

Martin Grover lives and paints in Lambeth, South London. His work can be found in many private collections throughout the UK, and also in Holland, Italy, Spain, Mexico, USA, Australia and Hong Kong.

This former student of the famous Royal Academy Schools has consistently produced intriguing and beguiling work. Not being in possession of a sharp or analytical mind, he sticks to his strengths, which lie in observation and anecdote. A playful narrative thread runs through his work, at one moment a little dark and woebegone and the next humorous and whimsical but always alluring.