



Sir Peter Blake may be 75 but he still works regularly every day

Sir Peter's passion for art goes on undimmed

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through the Tuileries in Paris, done so that it becomes almost autobiographical. I tried to do that on the beach here but there wasn't enough stuff. The big Coca-Cola one, (Summer Days), was done on the computer.

"Then for the last two weeks I've been working on a series called Museums of Black and White, where I take objects and arrange them on a board."

Many of Peter's pictures are reproduced at Brad Faine's Coriander Studio, which specialises in fine art silk screen and digital printing. The two men have been working together since 1983 when they were introduced by a mutual friend, artist Ivor Abrahams. Not surprisingly, Coriander's artist roster is highly distinguished, including the likes of Damien Hirst, Michael Craig-Martin, Sir Terry Frost and Sandra Blow.

"I believe that Peter's work is very accessible and I liked it from the start," said Brad. "When I first met him he was already famous, but he's an ordinary person and that was quite important. One artist came to the studio, sat on a print table in the lotus position and said 'I'm absorbing the muse'. I knew we could never work together."

A quiet self-effacing man in his 75th year, Peter is not resting on his laurels. Still very-disciplined,

he works from 11am to 6pm in a studio that is ordered and organised. Although his art is highly acclaimed and in huge demand, Peter denies originality.

"Joseph Cornell would be a big influence, Velasquez, early Lucian Freud and Stanley Spencer — there's a whole list," he said.

"There's no such thing as originality."

Peter says he's a figurative artist, belonging to the pop art movement and the Brotherhood of Ruralists. None of the labels are written on stone, artists evolve and some art is good and some bad.

"I always live by Duchamp's remark that if someone is an artist, whatever they make is art," said Peter.

"But then you have to define how you become an artist or how genuine an artist you are."

Brad added the twist to the principle.

"I remember someone said to the art writer Jasia Reichardt 'if I pee against the wall, it's art and I have the right to call it art'. And she replied, 'yes, you're absolutely right, but I have the right to not like it very much'. I do think that's the case."

There are still many projects in the pipeline.

"There's tons of stuff," he said. "One day I'll be laboriously drawing with a 7H pencil and the next working on the computer. It's a very exciting time."