

PETER PHILLIPS

Moseley Road Secondary Art School 1949 - 1952

Pop Artist and Prolific Creator

"Moseley Road Secondary Art School was the only school of its kind. Without it I would have just been a normal student and may never had the opportunity to be in the arts."



One of the pioneering British Pop Artists

Peter Phillips made some of his most influential paintings in his 20's and has gone on to have a prolific career.

Peter attended the School from 14-16 years of age, followed by four years at Birmingham College of Art. He trained in everything from heraldry, sign-writing, decorating, drawing, book-binding to painting itself. At the age of 19 he exhibited in London with the 'Young Contemporaries' and next year entered the postgraduate painting course at the Royal College of Art with fellow students David Hockney, Allen Jones and R.B. Kitaj where he quickly made a name for himself.

At the age of 23, whilst still at college, he was the subject of a Ken Russell documentary 'Pop Goes The Easel'

In 1964 he was awarded a Harkness Fellowship from America and moved to New York for two years, where he worked and exhibited alongside an older generation of artists including Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein.

His work ranges from oils on canvas to screen-prints, collages and sculpture. Vibrant in colour and immaculately finished, they combine the language of advertising and graphic design

with a dose of sex appeal and surrealism. Images of popular culture of fast cars, pin-ups, entertainment arcades and the machine age are juxtaposed with geometric forms using a compositional grid, a device that is developed throughout his work. He was influenced by the glamour of American culture with its assertive advertising style. By the 1970's his paintings were on a billboard scale, often using metallic paints airbrushed to perfection. His practical craftsmanlike skills learnt at art school, taught him how to adapt to new tools, materials and techniques.

Complimenting his early Pop Art is 50 years of intense creativity that now utilises computer technology and modern digital media.

Peter's work is exhibited in collections worldwide

Over 30 of his prints are in the Tate Gallery. He has featured in BBC documentaries, been visited by the Queen and is listed in art history books globally. Peter is considered one of the most important British artists of his generation.

After exhibiting and living around the world Peter now resides on the Sunshine Coast of Australia, in a state-of-the-art studio where he continues to work and exhibit.

