

PORTFOLIO: NIGEL PEAKE

Deborah Jackson gets close to the drawings of Nigel Peake, a prolific sketcher and young emerging artist who recently showed work at Red Door Gallery in Edinburgh



Riches Hold No Interest, Nigel Peake, 2005, coloured ink on paper

'Let me take you on a trip
Around the world and back
And you won't want have to move
You just sit still
Now let your mind do the walking...'

There is a trace of playful self-forgetfulness and absorption in the work of Nigel Peake which conveys his sense of pleasure in drawing. Despite training as an architect, his idiosyncratic pictures are uncoupled from his chosen discipline's constraints and inhibitions. Peake feels refreshingly free to shape his imagined kaleidoscopic cities where skewed cosmologies are spun out of fantasy and reflect an ambivalent attitude towards the ambitions of architecture.

His most recent ink drawings he describes as 'using lines and words to draw dreams and maps'. In 'Lo-Fi Dreams' the energy of sprawling, spidery lines combined with an intricacy of drawing, produces a new view of reality, delicately displaying a system of unidentifiable streets and arterial circuits: Peake condenses an entire world, his mental vistas constantly flipping between dimensions.



However immersed in references to architecture and design, this artist recognises that nature itself has an architecture. His motifs are intertwined in that language of nature, reflected in the order of his microcosmic worlds. He invents exquisite winding mazes. In 'Million Dollar Riches Hold No Interest' the ambitious sprawl of crisp outlines and endless embellishments describes a fantastic world.

Fervently obsessive, his drawings often ignore the boundaries of the page, spilling beyond onto the architectural surface and into his 'window scrawls' where

Themes

Seasons

Magazine

Search

MAP Newsletter

[f MAP on Facebook](#)

[t MAP on Twitter](#)

[MAP on Instagram](#)

More Architecture

Sex in Architecture

Has urbanism become too polite? Richard Williams explores the concrete evidence in Richard Rogers's work

WHERE IS ART AND WHO PUT IT THERE? 6 AUGUST 2013

Sean Edwards and The Maelfa

Artist Sean Edwards reflects on The Maelfa, a shopping centre on the outskirts of Cardiff and focus of Edwards' new exhibition. The artist considers the building in relation to its historical and social functions as well as its current decline as a 'ruin in reverse'

MAP #24 1 NOVEMBER 2010

In conversation: Tom Burr

American sculptor Tom Burr talks to Steven Cairns about 'the persona of the artist', being categorised within genres, and the influence of great cities on his practice

MAP #24 1 NOVEMBER 2010

Sculpture Haven

Irene Kernan, director of Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop announces a big step forward for the organisation

MAP #24 1 NOVEMBER 2010

NVA

Angus Farquhar, creative director of Glasgow-based public art agency NVA, looks to secure the future of the abandoned, yet inspirational, St Peter's Seminary

MAP #24 1 NOVEMBER 2010

[View all articles in Architecture](#)

More Drawing

Miranda Blennerhassett, Two Shapes Three Colours

MAP introduces the Dublin artist's new stop motion animation

IODINE OF THE SEA 13 FEBRUARY 2014

he plays with the relationship between illusion, surface, representation and architecture. With spontaneous, rhythmic repetition, the flow of his ideas form a line of thought which runs rampant. In other compositions he explores the connections between art and music. His patterns resemble oscillating soundwaves pulsating across the page, like an imaginary musical score. You can lose yourself in these mesmerising drawings, just as Peake immerses himself in their execution.

'Let me show you the world in my eyes
I'll take to the highest mountain
To the depths of the deepest sea
We won't need a map, believe me'

Deborah Jackson is a student at Edinburgh College of Art and editorial assistant on MAP

Lyrics in text by Depeche Mode 'World in my Eyes' Violator 1990



[Alex Impey](#)

Dominic Paterson in conversation with Alex Impey
DO NOT LEAN OUT OF THE WINDOW 21 FEBRUARY 2013

[Rosemarie Trockel](#)

MAP #24 1 NOVEMBER 2010

[Michael Smith](#)

16 January–20, 2010, February Ellen de Bruijne
Projects, Amsterdam

MAP #22 1 JUNE 2010

[Between Earth & Heaven: The Architecture of John
Lautner](#)

20 March—26 July, The Lighthouse, Glasgow

MAP #18 1 JUNE 2009

[View all articles in Drawing](#)