

## Still Life With Street by Alberto Martinez



Human nature doesn't change—like a stick of Brighton rock, you bite all the way down and it still reads 'BRIGHTON'!

Alberto Martinez loves to play with form, angles and his viewers mind.

Still Life with Street is Alberto's own take on an unusual woodcut print by the Dutch artist M. C. Escher which was first printed in March, 1937. It was Escher's first print of an impossible reality.

In this artwork there are two distinctly recognizable realities bound together in a natural yet impossible way. Alberto has emulated this vision within his painting.

The image of Market Street in Brighton is viewed as if through a window. Looked at from this window, the shop fronts make book-rests between which tiny toy pieces are set up. Looked at from the street, the books stand meters high and a gigantic kitten stands at the junction.

This image is a classic example of Martinez's plays on perspective. In it, the horizontal plane of the table continues into the distance to become the street, and the rows of books on the table are seen to lean against the tall buildings that line the street.

Mixed in with all this technical drawing prowess is Alberto's own fun stylings.

An Egg, a pregnancy test and a kitten all nod to the never ending circle of life. The grapes, flowers, butterfly and birds are all growing and flourishing.

Alberto's trademark Cuban cigars and the Cuban hummingbird together with the national game of dominoes, combine his two cultures effortlessly together.

When asked why there is a trumpet coming out of the window, he just answered, "Why not?!"



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