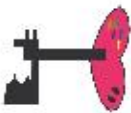


Alberto Martinez British Icons



Alberto Martinez - British Icons

It has been said that people deeply influence a country, culture and history. So, how to distil what makes Britain what it is today in a painting created by someone that wasn't born here? I asked myself that question even before I started this project, and the answer was surprisingly simple. Its people. It is always the people. So I asked them...

The result was a vast array of stories, references and delightful memories that gave me enough material to make not one, but potentially a series of pieces on the subject. The most difficult part was to decide what to include and what to leave out.

What followed was three months of rigorous discipline as I wanted to create a dynamic yet not overwhelming visual feast of all things British with Big Ben taking centre stage. All other elements arranged in a way that would create a left to right movement with visual clues scattered in a colourful but measured manner. Polite even. From a respectful nod to the Queen and her iconic blue dress, to recreating the well-known Beatles Album cover and of course, the Aston Martin.

With the use of negative spaces, not even clouds distract your attention from the ins and outs. I also wanted the layout of the perspectives to draw in the observers, make them feel the possibility of the scenes developing in the painting being real life, like a normal day in any given road in London. Or a very elaborate film set with the characters getting on with their lives, their stories.

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This piece is my humble homage to Britain and its most precious commodity: its people and their creations.

Alberto Martinez (El Flaco)