

WHO ATE MY UNCLE? by Bill Drummond

Part of *The 25 Paintings World Tour* (2014 – 2026)

10 September - 17 October

In September and October 2021, Bill Drummond will be bringing *The 25 Paintings World Tour* to Great Yarmouth.

Bill Drummond will be presenting *The 25 Paintings* at PRIMEYARC. PRIMEYARC is a space for creative collaborations managed by originalprojects.

PRIMEYARC is located in a former Debenhams Department Store in Market Gates Shopping Centre, Great Yarmouth.

The 25 Paintings World Tour last for twelve years.

The 25 Paintings World Tour is a twelve-step programme.

On each step of the tour so far, Drummond has spent a period of the year working in a different city, in a different country that has held a personal significance for him. So far the steps have included Spaghetti Junction, Birmingham (2014); Belgrade, Serbia (2015); Kolkata, India (2016); Lexington, North Carolina (2018), Ribadavia, Galicia (2019); Bingöl, Kurdistan (2020)*.

The 25 Paintings are 25 canvases all identical in size (X). On each of the canvases are painted some words. The paintings have no aesthetic value. Their primary purpose is to act as adverts, signposts or proclamations for the work that Drummond will be carrying out on each of the twelve steps of the World Tour.

Each year Drummond repaints the same 25 canvases using the words translated into the local language. In English some of these words are BAKE CAKE, MAKE SOUP, MAN SHINING SHOES, MAN MAKING BED, BANG DRUM, BLOW HORN. The paintings are done using the three primary colours, plus black and white. Some say they are presented in a similar format to flags.

Drummond hates all flags. Especially the ones he finds easiest to identify with.

Drummond has been confronted with the fact that the 'World Tour' smacks of white male privilege.

Drummond has been confronted with the fact the stories of world travel that are more vital, are those that have been made out of necessity, as in those made by migrants who have travelled to escape persecution, or crossed borders to make a better life for them and their families.**

Drummond has also had to confront the brain seizures that he has had over the previous 18 months.

To address these confrontations Drummond has decided that the remaining six steps of *The 25 Painting World Tour* must be to locations within The Atlantic Archipelago (AKA The British Isles), highlighting the journeys of others rather than himself.

Who Ate My Uncle? is the title given to the first of the remaining six steps of the 'World Tour'. For *Who At My Uncle?* The 25 Paintings have been repainted into Cape Verdean Kriol, in response to the surprisingly high number of Cape Verdean residents in Great Yarmouth. They were historically brought here as economic migrants to work in the Bernard Matthew's turkey factories.

The reason why Great Yarmouth is a place of personal significance for Bill Drummond is... His great-great-uncle Oliver Tomkins was from Great Yarmouth. Oliver Tomkins was a young missionary that went to Papua New Guinea to convert the 'heathens' to Christianity. While there in 1901 Oliver Tomkins was killed and eaten by cannibals. This event being the source of the title for this exhibition. The 2021 step of the world tour was originally to have been to the village in Papua New Guinea where his uncle was eaten. Drummond wanted to shake hands with the great-great nephew of the person who did the eating.

At the start of the exhibition there will be a screening of the film *Best Before Death*, which was directed by Paul Duane and introduces and explores some of the ideas behind *The 25 Paintings World Tour*. The screening will be sandwiched by a performance of *White Saviour Complex*.

White Saviour Complex is a play written by one of Drummond's other selves – Tenzing Scott Brown.

The following evening there will be the premiere performance of *White Male Gaze*, another play by Tenzing Scott Brown. *White Male Gaze* is the sister to *White Saviour Complex*. Both plays are driven by how Drummond views the world through the eyes of a white entitled male and his attempts to confront this and his failings.

The ghost of Oliver Tomkins is a character in *White Male Gaze*.

Both *White Saviour Complex* and *White Male Gaze* have been published as hard back books in editions of 400. Both of these books will be on sale in Great Yarmouth from The Travelling Salesman.

The Travelling Salesman is one of Bill Drummond's other selves.

Whilst in Great Yarmouth Drummond will also be 'performing' some of his paintings. These 'performances' include baking cakes, making soup, shining shoes, building a bed, sweeping streets, blowing a horn and banging a drum.

*Bingöl, Kurdistan (2020): Due to the Great Pandemic, the 2020 step took place in Best Gent Hair Saloon on Albion Parade, N16. The owner of Best Gent Hair Saloon is Metin. Metin is Kurdish from Bingöl.

**Metin deserted doing national service in the Turkish army, thus will never be able to return to his homeland.

Bill Drummond Bio for 2021

Bill Drummond is past his sell-by-date.

Bill Drummond is a 68-year-old artist, who has seven children and a failing memory. He was born in the Transkei but currently identifies as Scots. He is heterosexual but currently identifies as demisexual. He withdraws. He is a bad father. He does not throw things away.

Mx. not Mr.

Bill Drummond is always running away.
Bill Drummond is always trying to find his way home.
Bill Drummond's maternal family are historically from Norfolk.

Since leaving Liverpool Art School in 1973 he has used whatever passing medium he could grab, with little concern as to having any capacity in the use of the passing medium he had grabbed.
Bill Drummond has also used numerous parallel aliases over the years. Some of these aliases have been used to hide behind. Others have been used to liberate aspects...
Tenzing Scott Brown being his current alias of choice.
Tenzing Scott Brown does not use social media.
Tenzing Scott Brown writes plays.
Tenzing Scott Brown is vain.
Vainglorious.

Nike's three-word strap line is *Just Do It*.
Coke's three-word strap line is *The Real Thing*.
Bill Drummond's three-word strap line is *Best Before Death*.

After Bill Drummond has died his work will be worthless.
Throw it away.

Post Script:
Further facts, fallacies and phantasies can be found via Google.
Delete at your Discretion.