

Artist's Statement

INVERSE COLOUR

Trevor Burgess

17 to 25 July 2021 Open 2 to 8pm

Monday 19 July Opening party 6 to 9pm [Book here](#)

Sunday 25 July Closing party 3 to 6pm [Book here](#)

I made the first painting in inverse colour in reaction to the shock of the Brexit referendum result in 2016.

It was a spontaneous impulse of rejection. After reflecting on the implications, I made follow-up paintings. These are history paintings. They are painted for the English people – for all people.

"I don't know how you were diverted

You were perverted too

I don't know how you were inverted

No one alerted you"

George Harrison

How did the values I was proud of in the country I live in - the common sense of the English people, the openness to the world, the pleasures of inclusive multiculturalism, the beautiful idea of freedom of movement in Europe - get inverted? To the point where Home Office vans keep on touring the streets looking for people to expel from their home here with no legal redress or right to appeal, and legitimate visitors coming to look after their family get arbitrarily locked up in detention centres. How have we become so mean and afraid? Don't look to paintings for answers. Look at them to see.

Then came the Covid crisis. I used to paint the everyday social life of the city. When the virus struck and the country went into lockdown, I couldn't keep painting people in the city as if nothing had happened.

Everything looks the same: but it has all changed. I saw it as a psychological change, a ubiquitous threat that is felt everywhere by everybody, but is ultimately intangible, invisible.

We have all had to find a way of dealing with it. By inverting colours, I could paint the same subjects I always used to, yet the colour inversion changes how you see it. The difficulty of imagining the picture in its true colours echoed the difficulty I now felt in imagining life returning to how it was.

Trevor Burgess
June 2021

Flashback Gallery

26 Topsfield Parade, Tottenham Lane, Crouch End, London N8 8PT

Further information and images from **Trevor Burgess**:

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The port of Dover (after Kokoschka), oil on canvas, 76.5 x 128cm



Elegy for Street life #7, oil on aluminium, 40 x 50cm