

## **UNREAL ESTATES**

### **MILES CHAMBERS X MERNY**

27 Grosvenor Road, Bristol

#### **MERNY 200 WORDS**

Miles Chambers and I kept talking about the importance of certain parts of Bristol and its history. We were interested in the different events which can take place on one spot over many years and the potential energy or influence, which can be left behind. We chose to base our project on a house in St Pauls, Bristol. A fairly unremarkable house, which blends into the style of many houses in Bristol. A 2 storey, flat roofed terraced house with flat facade. No.27 looks slightly newer than some of the others and that's because it is. It was built on the ground of the former Black and White cafe. An important cafe to the local caribbean community in St Paul's in the 1980s, but one which gained a national reputation as one of Britain's most dangerous drug dens.

The cafe was raided more times than any other in the UK and it was during one of these in 1980 raids that triggered off the infamous 'riots' or the "uprising" depending on whose account you read. This was repeated in 1986 and resulted in one of the largest police operations ever at the time, Operation Delivery, which saw more than 600 police and armed police deployed in the streets around the Black and White Cafe in an attempt to curb an outbreak of gang warfare centred on the cafe.

I have produced a series of six paintings, which tell a story of the house as it looks today, how it looked in the 80's and some glimpses of people's experience during the unrest in that period.

#### **Painting Titles and Medium**

1. 27 Grosvenor Road  
Watercolour & Gouache  
October 2021  
29cm x 21cm

2. Black & White  
Watercolour & Gouache  
October 2021  
29cm x 21cm

3. Uprising

Watercolour & Gouache  
October 2021  
29cm x 21cm

4. Bertram Wilkes  
Watercolour & Gouache  
October 2021  
29cm x 21cm

5. Outside the Cafe  
Watercolour & Gouache  
October 2021  
29cm x 21cm

6. Gettingaggi  
Watercolour & Gouache  
October 2021  
30cm x 21 cm

7. Operation Delivery  
Watercolour & Gouache  
October 2021  
30cm x 24cm

[www.mernywernz.com](http://www.mernywernz.com)  
[www.instagram.com/mernywernz](https://www.instagram.com/mernywernz)

#### merny bio

Merny paints watercolours and murals inspired by online meme culture, technical diagrams, health and safety posters and other things he encounters in the world. His style is vibrant and frenetic and explores the post truth, post internet age of technology we are living in. His portfolio of cryptic diagrams and nonsensical scenes aim to embrace imperfection. His most recent work produced since early 2020 deals with the unavoidable presence of our friend, covid19 and the absence of certainty in our lives.