

GLEN BAXTER UNFLINCHINGLY GAMBOGE, SELECTED WORKS

10 JANUARY - 1 FEBRUARY 2020

PRIVATE VIEW THURSDAY 9 JANUARY 6 - 8PM

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British artist Glen Baxter is renowned for a unique style of social surrealism in which familiar subjects from popular culture are combined with an absurdist message. In this exhibition of works on paper, Baxter explores a world of illustrated characters engaged in baffled contemplation of modern art and philosophy.

Beginning with his first publications of the 1970s, Baxter developed a distinctive drawing style similar to that of mid-twentieth century British comic books, combining images and text using the format of a single cell graphic panel. Loosely deriving material from diverse sources such as pulp fiction, adventure stories, 'foodie-ism', and iconic works of art, Baxter's surreal scenarios form a playful critique of society and culture.

Baxter works with a number of recurring motifs and personas, from cowboys, schoolchildren and explorers to culinary ingredients such as tofu. The accompanying phrasing recalls 1940s-era film and storybook references, often deriving a surreal humour from the incongruity of image, text and meaning. In this exhibition, two cowboys on horseback examine a black square on the side of a rustic cabin, with the caption *And I'm telling you, that's a dang-blasted Malevich! hollered the curator*, while in another work, a lone cowboy punches through a canvas with the line *For Big Red, it was just one still life too far*. There is a subtle absurdity in the drawing *He continued to threaten me with more butterflies*, in which a young boy hides in a tree from another child releasing a cloud of benign insects; and a characteristic lampooning of fine dining can be seen in a work depicting a couple peering from the window of a submarine, with the caption *Derek was always insisting we try out new restaurants*.

ABOUT GLEN BAXTER

Glen Baxter (b. 1944) has written numerous books, including *The Billiard Table Murders* and *Blizzards of Tweed*. His work has appeared in publications such as *The New Yorker*, *Vanity Fair*, *Elle*, and *Vogue*. Exhibitions of Baxter's drawings and paintings have been held in New York, Paris, San Francisco, London, Munich, Tokyo, and Sydney. His work is in the collections of the Tate Gallery and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. In May 2016, the *New York Review of Books* published a collection of Baxter's work *Almost Completely Baxter: New and Selected Blurtings*. Baxter lives and works in London.



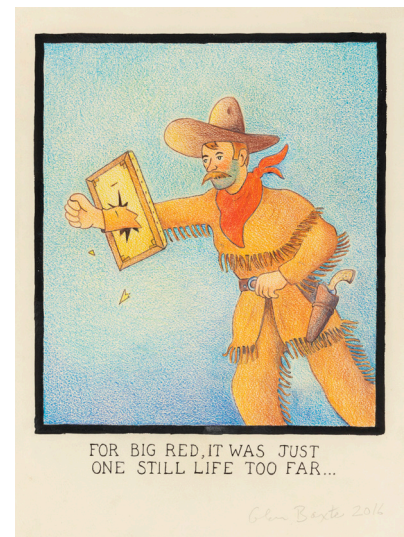
Tense Moment at the Jasper Johns Retrospective, 2018,
ink and crayon on paper



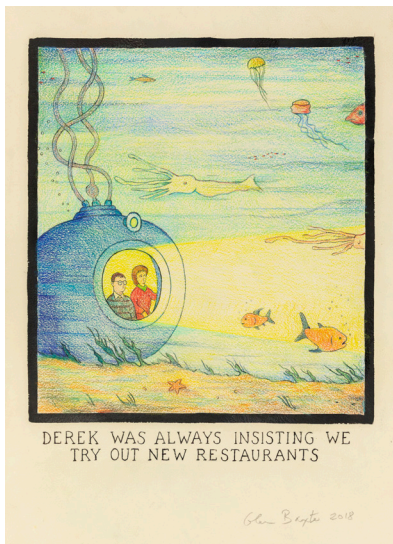
Up To That Point Things Had Been Going Rather Well, 2012, Ink and crayon on paper



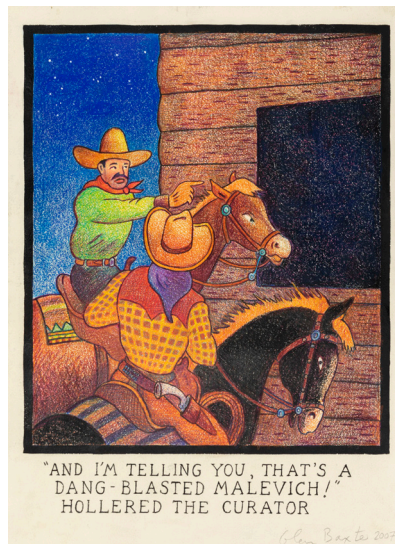
He Continued To Threaten Me With More Butterflies, 2017, Ink and crayon on paper



For Big Red, It Was Just One Still Life Too Far, 2016, Ink and crayon on paper



Derek Was Always Insisting We Try Out New Restaurants, 2018, Ink and crayon on paper



And I'm Telling You, That's A Dang-Blasted Malevich! Hollered The Curator, 2007, Ink and crayon on paper

NOTES TO EDITORS

Opening Hours: Monday - Saturday 10am - 6pm
Image Credits: *Images courtesy of Flowers Gallery*

For further exhibition information and images please contact Hannah Hughes on 0207 920 7777,
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