GLEN BAXTER
FURTIVE LOOMINGS

11 JANUARY - 11 FEBRUARY 2017

PRIVATE VIEW TUESDAY 10 JANUARY 6 - 8PM

"Glen Baxter is an artist in the distinguished tradition of Lewis Carroll, Sax Rohmer, Marquis de Sade, Raymond Roussel, Luther Burbank, and the Comte de Lautreamont." - John Ashbery

In Baxter's surreal world cowboys ponder modern art, schoolboys grapple with philosophy and the world's fruits are in constant peril. In this exhibition of new and recent works on paper, drawn in the style of adventure comic series such as Biggles and Dan Dare, image and text coalesce with uncertain and often baffling results.
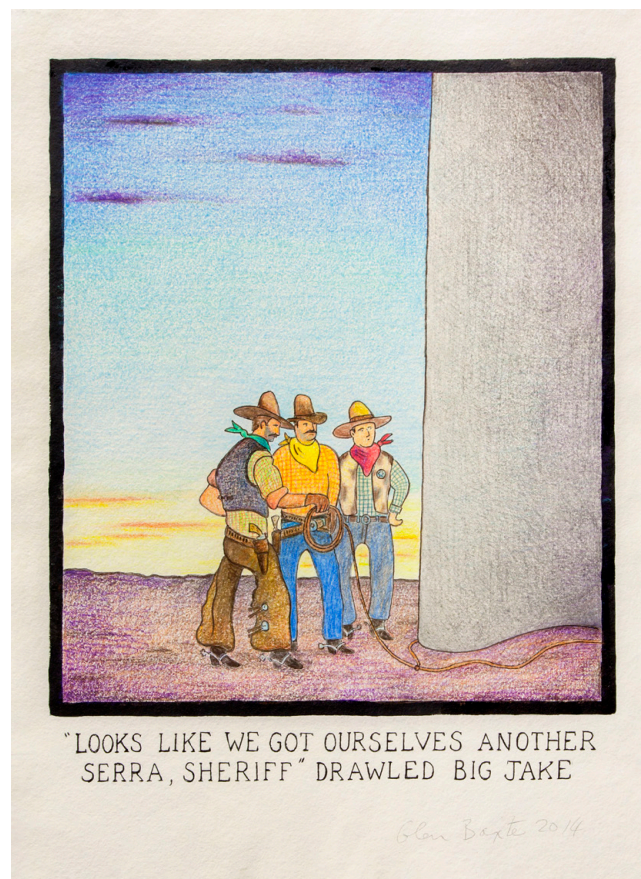
"Looks like we got ourselves another Serra, Sheriff" Drawled Big Jake provides a characteristic subversion of the Western genre, depicting three American cowboys surveying a monolithic sculpture snared by their lasso. The recurring theme of modern art-rustling can also be seen in *"But I Specifically Requested a Rothko" Barked Ken*. Here, a lone cowboy berates a Retriever, which has emerged from a distant Modernist dwelling with what appears to be a small Mondrian painting in its jaws.

Other well-known Baxter characters are revisited, including puzzled-looking schoolboys receiving a mysterious education; and Boy Scouts, who are treated to unusual campfire entertainment in *Following the Confiscation of Our iPads we were Forced to Attend a Virtuoso Performance by our Patrol Leader Featuring "Alec, The Dancing Carrot"*.

Baxter introduces several autobiographical details in works that reveal a childhood spent in the county of Yorkshire avoiding all manner of vegetables; while examples of surreal slapstick can be found in works such as *David Looked Forward to Those Quiet Sunday Afternoons in the Garden,* where the banality of the everyday domestic scene is due to be savagely interrupted by unexpected wildlife.

Baxter has described his images as *"sabotaging"* their own sense of familiarity with an absurdist message. According to Michael Wilson (Artforum, October 2005), Baxter "…achieves a kind of social-surrealist comedy comparable to the achievements of Monty Python's Flying Circus and Vic Reeves."


"Looks like we got ourselves another Serra, Sheriff" drawled big Jake, 2014, Ink and crayon on paper, 79 x 57 cm / 31 1/8 x 22 1/2 in
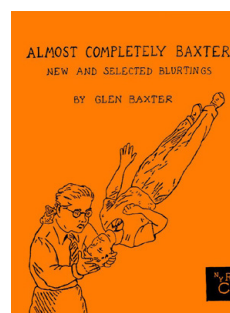
ALMOST COMPLETELY BAXTER (New York Review Comics, 2016, £14.99) is a new selection of his work which brings together highlights from the full sweep of Baxter's long career, and is sure to enchant both confirmed Baxterians and those in dire need of an introduction.

For further exhibition information and images please contact Hannah Hughes on 0207 920 7777
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For further information on the book please contact Emma O'Bryen, Publicity on 020 7619 0098
E: eobr@blueyonder.co.uk.
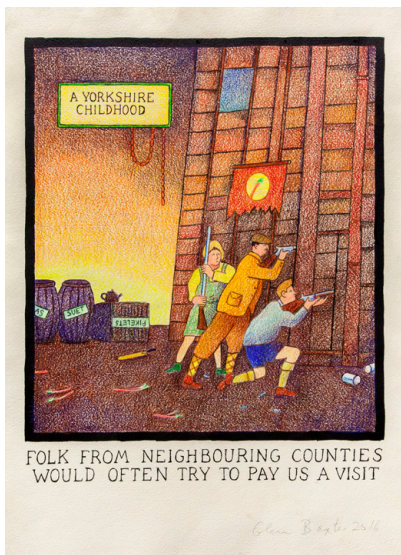
Folk from neighbouring counties would often try to pay us a visit, 2016
Ink and crayon on paper
79 x 57 cm/ 31 1/8 x 22 1/2 in

"But I specifically requested a Rothko!" barked Ken, 2016
Ink and crayon on paper
79 x 57 cm/ 31 1/8 x 22 1/2 in

David looked forward to those quiet Sunday afternoons in the garden, 2016
Ink and crayon on paper
79 x 57 cm/ 31 1/8 x 22 1/2 in

We raced on through a blizzard of disputed Monets, 2016
Ink and crayon on paper
57 x 79 cm / 22 1/2 x 31 1/8 in

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 such publications 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. Baxter lives and works in London.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Opening Hours: Monday - Saturday 10am - 6pm
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