

# GLEN BAXTER

## INTERMITTENTLY OCHRE

21 Cork Street,  
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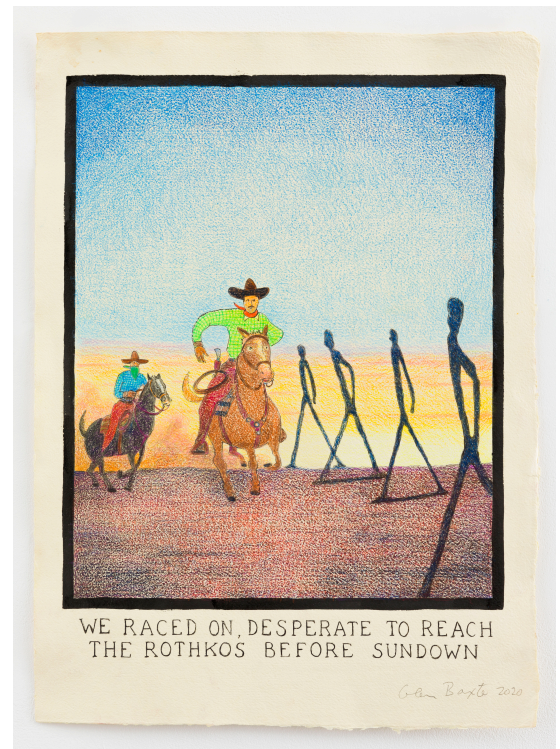
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22 November - 4 January, 2024  
Private View: 21 November, 6-8pm

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Flowers Gallery is delighted to present a new collection of works on paper by renowned British artist Glen Baxter, known for his distinctive fusion of absurdist humour and social surrealism.

This latest series showcases Baxter's use of ink and crayon, exploring the unconventional and surreal collisions between image and language that have come to define his career. In these works, Baxter revisits familiar characters, including cowboys, gangsters, and Boy Scouts. The recurring theme of "modern art-rustling" can be seen in *We Raced on, Desperate to Reach the Rothkos before Sundown*. Here, the cowboys, in their quest to acquire or experience Rothko paintings, are ironically surrounded by the natural world's own Rothko-like composition in the sunset. The silhouetted, elongated figures in the background resemble the sculptures of Alberto Giacometti, further adding to the playful collision of high art and cowboy culture.



*We Raced on, Desperate to Reach the Rothkos before Sundown*,  
2020, Ink and crayon on paper, 79 x 57.5 cm

Baxter's career took a significant turn in 1974 when he was invited by The Poetry Project in New York to read his works at St. Mark's Church on the Lower East Side. He received a rapturous welcome by an audience of poets, artists, and filmmakers. Exhibitions of his drawings and paintings followed at the Gotham Book Mart Gallery. The eccentric American artist Edward Gorey proclaimed, "Mr. Baxter betrays all the ominous signs of genius."

In 1980, London's Institute of Contemporary Arts offered Baxter his first major public gallery showcase. This exhibition sparked a string of successes, leading to best-selling books and exhibitions across Paris, Brussels, Amsterdam, Sydney, San Francisco, and Tokyo.

Artist Glen Baxter said: "For those who have the misfortune to stammer, certain words and letters can induce dread. Strategies are developed and this is how I began to circumvent the everyday trauma of trying to achieve fluency of speech. Each element of language has to be rearranged. At times resulting in unusual sentence formations. This was the world I took with me to art school where I discovered that this fitted in perfectly with André Bretons description of Surrealism. I was happy to discover I was not alone and this new found freedom allowed me to explore the combinations of words and images that were to become the bedrock of what we now know as a Glen Baxter drawing."

For more information and images please contact Leighanne Murray: leighanne@atelierpublicrelations.com or press@flowersgallery.com / +44 (0) 207 439 7766



*Perhaps it had been a Mistake to Invite the Muldoni Boys on the Weekend Grouse Shoot, 2023, Ink and crayon on paper 57.5 x 79 cm*

## ABOUT GLEN BAXTER

Glen Baxter (b 1944) was born in Leeds and studied at Leeds College of Art from 1960-5. He has exhibited internationally and his work is in the collections of the Tate Gallery and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. The artist has published numerous books, including *Almost Completely Baxter, New and Selected Blurtings* in 2016 and *Ominous Stains* in 2009, and has also appeared in such publications as *The New Yorker*, *Vanity Fair*, *Elle*, and *Vogue*.

It was at art school, through the work of André Breton, that Baxter first discovered Surrealism, his passion in life. His captioned drawings, rendered in ink and crayon, subvert the visual style of adventure comic series such as *Biggles* and *Dan Dare* by the inclusion of unconventional narrative twists.

The artist stages contrived scenes in environments such as art galleries, auction houses and the great outdoors with humorous results. Lampooning the signifiers of taste such as fine dining and connoisseurship, and misplacing icons of high culture such as the paintings of Mondrian and Rothko, Baxter's work raises questions around the social structures underpinning aesthetic values.

Exhibition Opening Hours: Monday - Saturday 11am - 6pm

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