

HUBERTY
& BREYNE

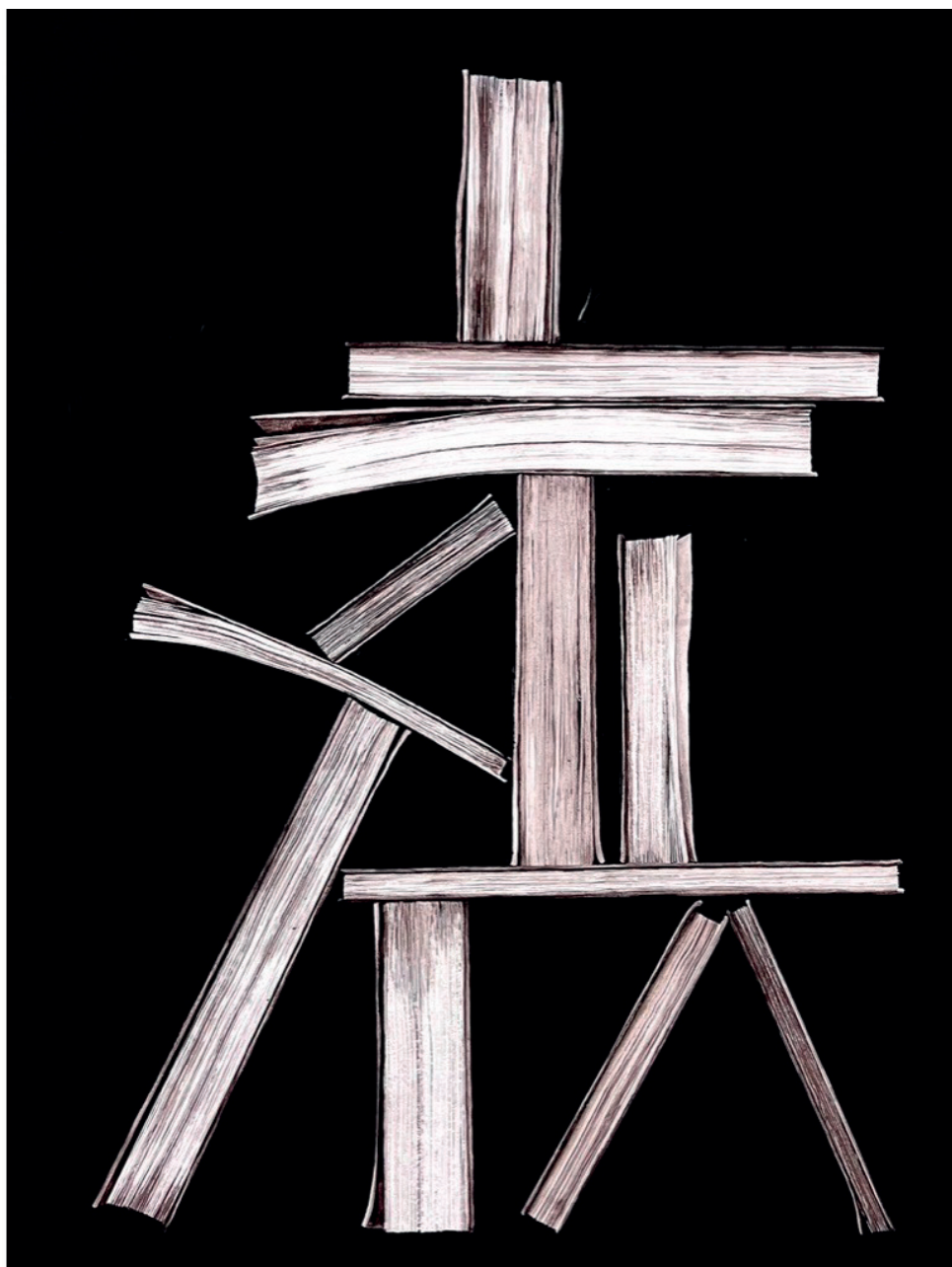
Gilles BARBIER

Propriétaire ? Locataire ?

8.09
> 14.10.2023

BRUXELLES | Châtelain

33 place du Châtelain
1050 Bruxelles



Equilibrium

First solo show for artist and sculptor Gilles Barbier at the Huberty & Breyne gallery

The Huberty & Breyne (Châtelain) gallery is hosting its first ever exhibition dedicated to the work of the celebrated French sculptor and artist Gilles Barbier. From 8 September to 14 October 2023, the exhibition – entitled *Propriétaire ? Locataire ?* – will be immersing viewers in a world of strange fictions as a means – in Barbier’s words – of “making sense of reality”.

Sculptures, drawings and gouaches... create a counterpoint to one another in a three-part exhibition designed by the artist himself. A total of more than fifty works, most of them seen here for the first time, offer a testimony to the complex and prolific nature of Gilles Barbier’s oeuvre. They include new creations deriving from his most famous series: still memory; cosmic comics; equilibrium; summer drawings and *ce qui est sorti du chapeau*...

With *Propriétaire ? Locataire ?*, Gilles Barbier is once again putting his name to an exhibition that plays skilfully with the notion of absurdity, prompting each of us to examine the workings of our own reason.



Ce qui est sorti du chapeau



Offrir Une ÎLE

Gilles Barbier's thought machine

Born in 1965, in Vanuatu, a remote island country in the South Pacific, Gilles Barbier moved to France at the age of 20, fully equipped with anarchic creative tendencies and a determination to make up the rules as he went along.

Drawing on his vast imagination, he bombards the viewer with visual incongruities – in every genre – which are no less real for that. Incongruities that closely reflect the world and its challenges, its delusions and potential for malevolence, and the absurdity of human impulses and actions.

Artist and creator of installations and of objects whose identity remains somewhat mysterious, Gilles Barbier is also a clone of himself, the image of un homme averti [qui] en vaut deux – “a man forewarned and therefore

forearmed”. Alive to the hazards of human existence, he is a complex individual whose art conceals a frisson of anxiety. A creator of contemporary art, on the one hand, three-dimensional comic art, on the other, Gilles Barbier poses a problem for anyone seeking to catalogue his work who fails to recognise the density and the variety, the variations, of an artist so familiar with the unsavoury issues of our present-day world – issues that sometimes present fearsome obstacles.

Growing up in that remote corner of the globe had a profound impact on Gilles Barbier: he seizes every available artistic opportunity, and whatever catches his attention serves as grist to his mill. He plays subtly with everything that comes to hand, everything that signals in some way to him, encouraging us to see the world not so much as it is but as it could be if we let down our guard.

“If my work often turns expectations on their head,” he says, “if it can appear insolent, if I choose to approach humour obliquely, it is because I accord paramount importance to art.”

Hard hitting but immensely rigorous in his approach, Barbier denounces our attitudes to a life he regards as so crazily out of kilter. He juggles with existence, once discovering himself as nature then as an effigy; his effigy which ventures behind the backstage of our existences, sometimes too peaceful, sometimes too tormented.

By Roger Pierre Turine



A very Old Thing — 180 x 180 x 115 cm

Gilles BARBIER

RECENT SOLO EXHIBITIONS (selection)

- 2022 Gilles Barbier, Le château, Espace à vendre, Nice, France
- 2022 Le festin du roi René et de la reine Jeanne, Château de Tarascon - Centre d'art René d'Anjou, Tarascon, France
- 2021 Gilles Barbier, Travailler le dimanche, Le Hangar à bananes, Nantes, France
- 2021 Machines de production, Musée Soulages, Rodez, France
- 2019 Laughing At Clouds, The Chimney, New York, Etats-Unis

RECENT COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS (selection)

- 2023 Hypersensible, Musée d'arts de Nantes, Nantes, France
- 2022 Les Choses. Une histoire de la nature morte, commissaire : Laurence Bertrand Dorléac, Musée du Louvre, Paris, France
- 2022 Hyperréalisme, ceci n'est pas un corps, Musée Maillol, Paris, France
- 2022 La Forêt magique, commissaire: Chris Dercon, Palais des Beaux-Arts de Lille, Lille, France
- 2021 Le grand bazar, Choix de Jean-Hubert Martin dans la Collection Antoine de Galbert Château d'Oiron, Oiron, Plaine-et-Vallées, France



Gilles BARBIER - ©Jean-Christophe Lett

Gilles BARBIER

Propriétaire ? Locataire ?

OPENING

Thursday 7 September 2023, from 6.00 pm to 9.00 pm,
in the presence of the artist

EXHIBITION

From Friday 8 September 2023
to Saturday 14 October 2023

BRUXELLES | Châtelain

33 Place du Châtelain
Wednesday > Saturday 11.00 am – 7.00 pm

PRESS CONTACTS

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HD visuals available on request
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HUBERTY & BREYNE

Huberty & Breyne is a contemporary art gallery specialising in original cartoon work. Operating out of Brussels and Paris under the direction of Alain Huberty and Marc Breyne, the gallery – which has been in existence for almost 30 years – represents both established and up-and-coming artists linked to, or inspired by, the 9th art.

Its exhibitions of original plates, paintings and sculptures champion contemporary art in all its guises and provide a platform for the crossover of different disciplines. A key reference point in the world of comic art, the Huberty & Breyne gallery offers collectors a rigorous selection of works by both household names and promising newcomers.

The gallery is closely involved with the contemporary art market scene and a contributor at major international fairs such as Brafa (Brussels Antiques & Fine Arts Fair), 1 – 54 London, Art Paris and Drawing Now. It occupies a 1,000m² exhibition space in Brussels, in place du Châtelain, and two further exhibition spaces in Paris, in avenue Matignon and rue Chapon. The latter – the Huberty & Breyne | Les Arts dessinés gallery – is dedicated to contemporary drawing under the direction of Frédéric Bosser.

Aside from running the gallery, Alain Huberty and Marc Breyne also advise auction houses regarding the sale of works of comic art.

BRUXELLES | Châtelain

33 place du Châtelain
1050 Bruxelles
+32 (0)2 893 90 30

Wednesday > Saturday
11.00 am – 7.00 pm

PARIS | Matignon

36 avenue Matignon
75008 Paris
+33 (0)1 40 28 04 71

Tuesday > Saturday
11.00 am – 7.00 pm

PARIS | Les Arts dessinés

19 rue Chapon
75003 Paris
+33 (0)1 71 32 51 98

Wednesday > Saturday
1.30 pm - 7.00 pm

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