



## **Untitled, 2020: Three Perspectives on the art of the present**

**Garry Barker**

The output was a selection of 12 of Barker's narrative etchings that were exhibited in an exhibition that was designed to explore various influential strands in relation to international contemporary sculpture. See pages of the catalogue/record of the exhibition.

### **Research process**

An allegorical visual narrative had been developed by Barker to communicate the experiences associated with buying a house; an at the time distressing situation, because he was also a lifelong socialist. The research consisted of the making of a series of imaginative drawings in response to the experience. Once the drawings were completed, 12 were developed as prints, using etching and aquatint processes.

### **Research insights**

The exhibition of this work placed Barker's outcomes in an international context. His long-term involvement with visual narrative and focus on the development of visualising processes that enable everyday situations to be given mythical status, was cited as a reason his work had been selected for this exhibition. An exhibition that also included artists of proven international stature, such as Edward Kienholtz and David Hockney.

### **Dissemination**

Barker's 12 etchings were chosen by the artist and curator Thomas Houseago as being of seminal importance in his own development as an internationally recognised sculptor. The Pinault Foundation produced exhibition brochures in both French and English and a multilingual 224 page catalogue was produced to showcase and contextualise the work that had been selected.









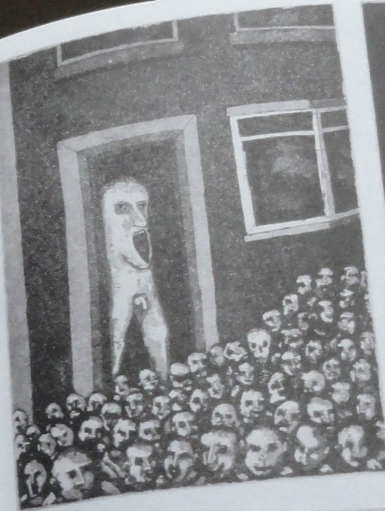
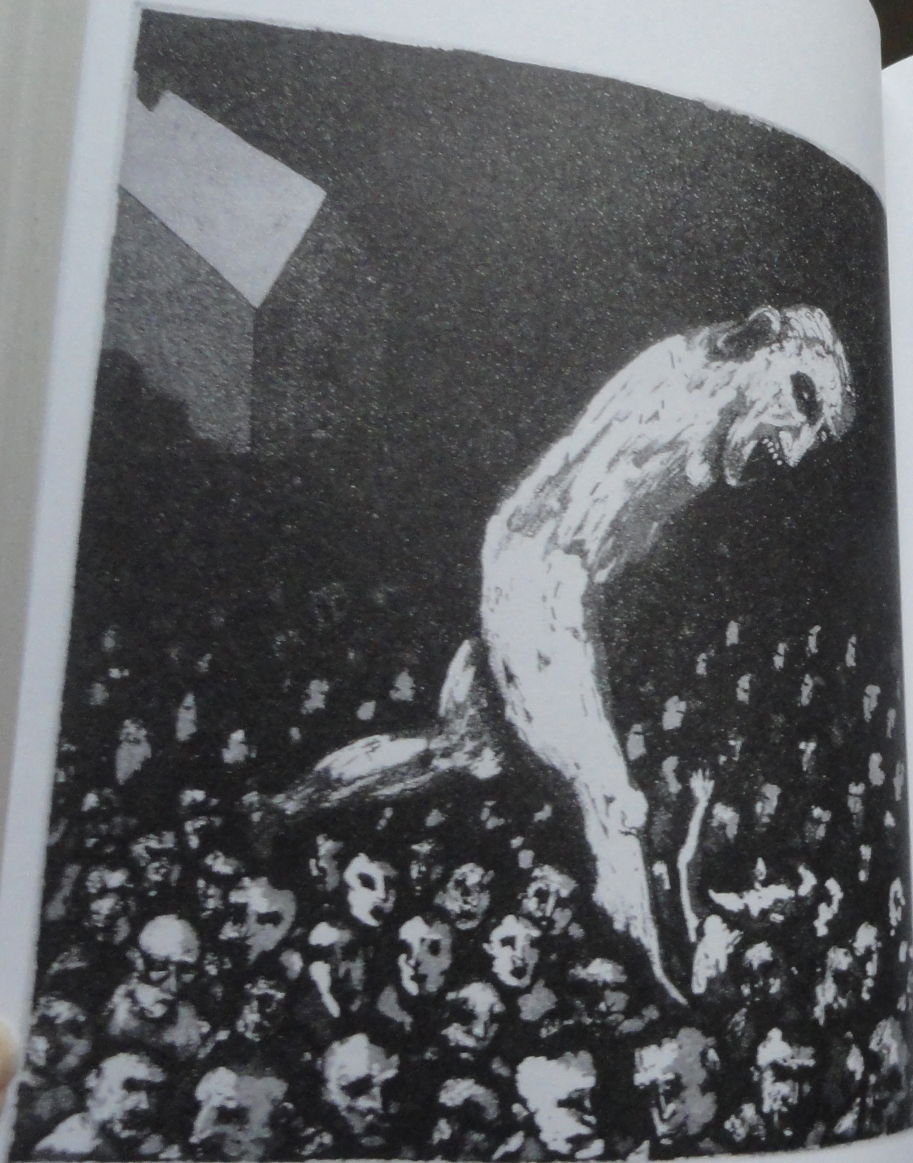








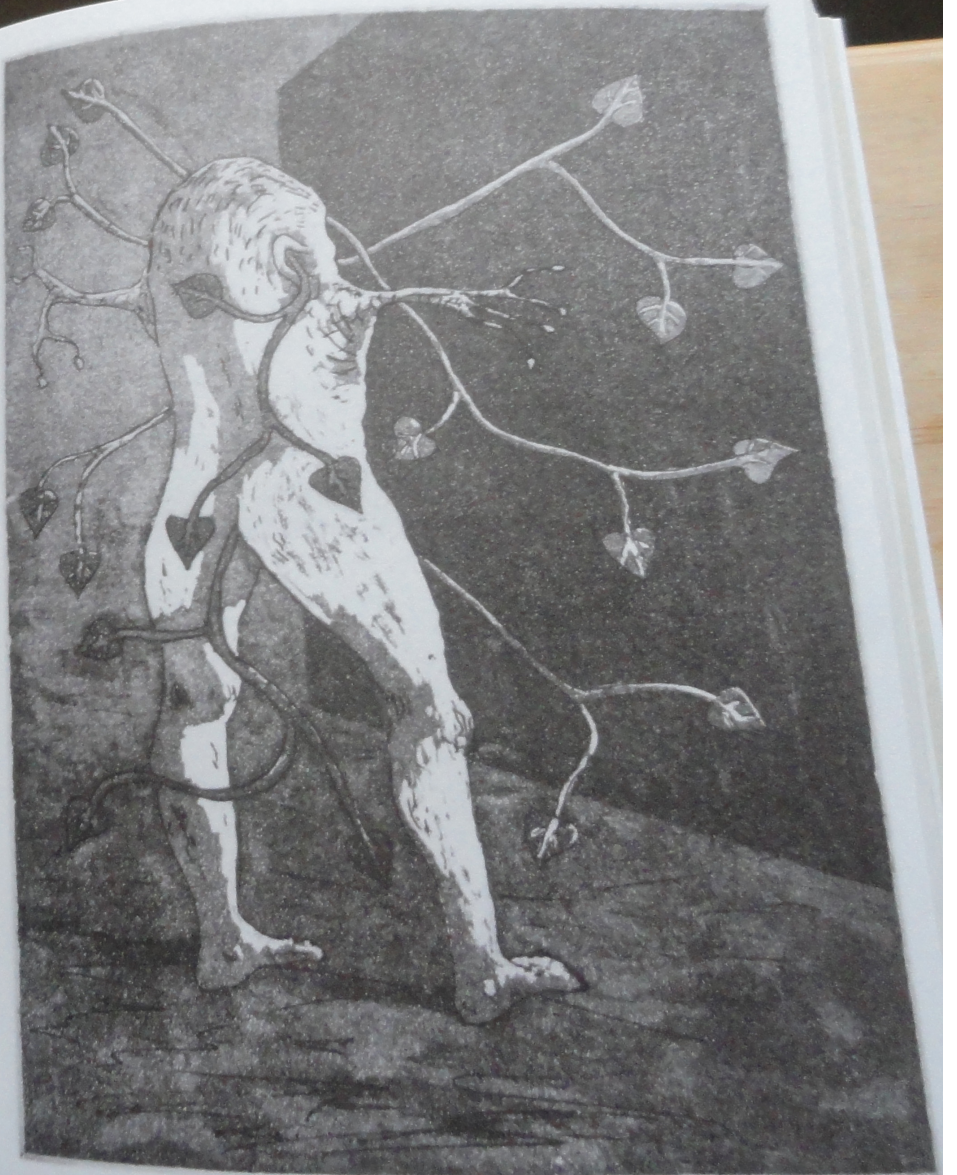
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# UNTITLED, 2020. THREE PERSPECTIVES ON THE ART OF THE PRESENT

PUNTA DELLA DOGANA  
11/07 - 04/11/2020

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Punta della Dogana presents the exhibition 'Untitled, 2020. Three perspectives on the art of the present', conceived and curated by **Caroline Bourgeois, Muna El Fituri** and the artist **Thomas Houseago**.

Five years after 'Slip of the Tongue', conceived by Danh Vo and Caroline Bourgeois and presented at Punta della Dogana in 2015, this is the second time that an artist of the Pinault Collection has been invited to present his personal view of the collection. Conceived especially for the spaces of Punta della Dogana, 'Untitled, 2020' is organised into themes and **presents the works of more than 60 artists held by the Pinault Collection, international museums and private collections.**

Accompanied by a wealth of references and quotes and ranging from the twentieth century through to the present day, the works set up a dialogue that triggers emotional, sensory, visual and tactile connections.

Covering a broad range of expressive media, from sculpture to video, and painting to photography, the works on view revolve around the recreation of Thomas Houseago's studio in Tadao Ando's cube room, in the heart of Punta della Dogana. In this space, the artist makes available to visitors his library and the sources of his inspiration through a site-specific installation.

The artists of the exhibition are Magdalena Abakanowicz, Nairy Baghramian, Garry Barker, Maria Bartusová, Lee Bontecou, Marcel Broodthaers, Stanley Brouwn, Teresa Burga, James Lee Byars, Eduardo Chillida, Robert Colescott, Bruce Conner, Enrico David, Karon Davis, Hélène Delprat, Abigail DeVille, Jan Dibbets, Elliot Dubail, Marlene Dumas, VALIE EXPORT, Llyn Foulkes, Kasia Fudakowski, Ellen Gallagher, Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster, Nancy Grossman, Philip Guston, Lauren Halsey, David Hammons, Duane Hanson, Georg Herold, David Hockney, Thomas Houseago, Arthur Jafa, Joan Jonas, Mike Kelley, Alice Kettle, Edward Kienholz & Nancy Reddin, Tetsumi Kudo, Deana Lawson, Bernd Lohaus, Lee Lozano, Markus Lüpertz, Paul McCarthy, Gustav Metzger, Peter Mitchell, Henry Moore, Otto Mühl, Rei Naito, Senga Nengudi, Meret Oppenheim, Nam June Paik, Solange Pessoa, Charles Ray, Auguste Rodin, Cameron Rowland, Betye Saar, Lorna Simpson, Ser Serpas, Daniel Steegmann Mangrané, Alina Szapocznikow, Henry Taylor, James "Son Ford" Thomas, Luc Tuymans, Gilberto Zorio.

Out of respect for the memory of Rebecca Blum, murdered on July the 22nd, 2020, by Saul Fletcher who committed suicide afterwards, and out of solidarity with the women victims of violence, Palazzo Grassi - Punta della Dogana has decided to remove the latter's work from the exhibition 'Untitled, 2020. Three perspectives on the art of the present'.

## GARRY BARKER

1950, Dudley (United Kingdom)

**CONFESSIONS OF A HOUSE  
OWNING SOCIALIST,**  
ETCHING WITH AQUATINT  
12 PRINTS, 31.7 x 29.8 CM EACH

PRIVATE COLLECTION, LOS ANGELES

► Garry Barker was born in the West Midlands, an area known as the Black Country that is noted for its industrial past and widespread pollution. He is a multifaceted artist, producing pen-and-ink drawings, watercolours, prints, tapestries, graphics and animation. He is also an author and editor, exploring the myths surrounding the arts and the issues linking art and fiction.

This series of illustrations entitled *Confessions of a House Owning Socialist*, which Garry Barker produced in 1991, depicts naked, armless figures with terrifying open-mouthed, goggle-eyed faces, as they are transformed into trees. His carefully produced drawings plunge the viewer into a sort of worrying, dystopic vision. The psychological, philosophical and sexual aspects are emphasised by the artist, who gives a central role to narration and socio-political exploration. He investigates the links between the local level, in Chapelton - the British town where he lives - and the global. Garry Barker has always prioritised his work as an art teacher and regularly organises art shows in the exhibition spaces of the art school. He draws what he sees on his walk to the school, and his imagination then takes over and transforms the real. His approach involves investigating the process of creating images, dreams and the fantastic. He draws on his own history, and on the landscapes of his childhood, when "danger was part of the poetry of childhood."

From the exhibition  
English language  
brochure