

Alexandra Baraitser IN THIS PLACE





Caustic Café 2020 oil on canvas 67 x 75.5cm



A Way Through 2021 oil on canvas 88 x 88cm



Archway 2021 oil on canvas 100 x 88cm

ALEXANDRA BARAITSER - IN THIS PLACE

Entering into one of Alexandra Baraitser's paintings we find ourselves in a different world altogether, one that is beautiful, modern and unique. Baraitser takes inspiration from twentieth century design and in particular the Bauhaus movement and classic 1950s interiors. Her canvases are based on photographs from period design catalogues, magazines and newspaper images that she feels jump off the page or have something in their composition that interests her.

Art can enable us to tell stories from our own experiences. Poet and activist Muriel Rukeyser once said "*The universe is not made of atoms it's made of stories*". In her paintings of interiors, buildings and cities, Baraitser employs figures to suggest a narrative and brings together strands of unique stories that makes us question where we are in time and place. The paintings describe a shared nostalgia, transporting us back in time to an alternative era.

In *Panton's Girl* we see a glamorous female figure from the 1960s relaxing on comfortable cushions surrounded by Verner Panton's stunning designs. The painting illustrates the beauty of the design object, rather than its functionality. Baraitser's work reminds us that in the course of a person's life, their interests, clothing, furniture and the objects they surround themselves with form the building blocks of their identity.

Flight No. 954 is based on a photograph of air hostesses waiting for a flight. It is a black and white image from the 1960s with contrasting tones. The artist was drawn to the out of focus softness of the picture and the way it made a statement about women's issues and status.

Baraitser is interested in describing interiors that have a touch of retrofuturism or classic designer chic. For example her painting titled *Archway* is based on a photograph of bespoke hanging lights in a shopping centre. Although this is a space that is associated with crowds there's an emptiness and loneliness to this scene. Her work captures and distils the extraordinary beauty of the architectural and interior designs that are sometimes concealed by the triviality of everyday life.

For this exhibition Alexandra Baraitser has brought together a series of works that like Edward Hopper's or Alex Katz's paintings capture a moment in time as if it was in a film still. Alexandra Baraitser's bright and complex pieces celebrate the contemporary world. Over the years her work has shifted from photorealism to a more abstract form of expression, with fluid brush strokes emphasising the contrast of light and shade. Many of her paintings depict classics by famous twentieth century designers such as Charles and Ray Eames and Poul Henningsen. In talking about her work, Baraitser explains how painting gives her a voice and helps her to find new ways to express ideas about contemporary culture and modernism.

Thanks to:

Charlie Hull (catalogue design)

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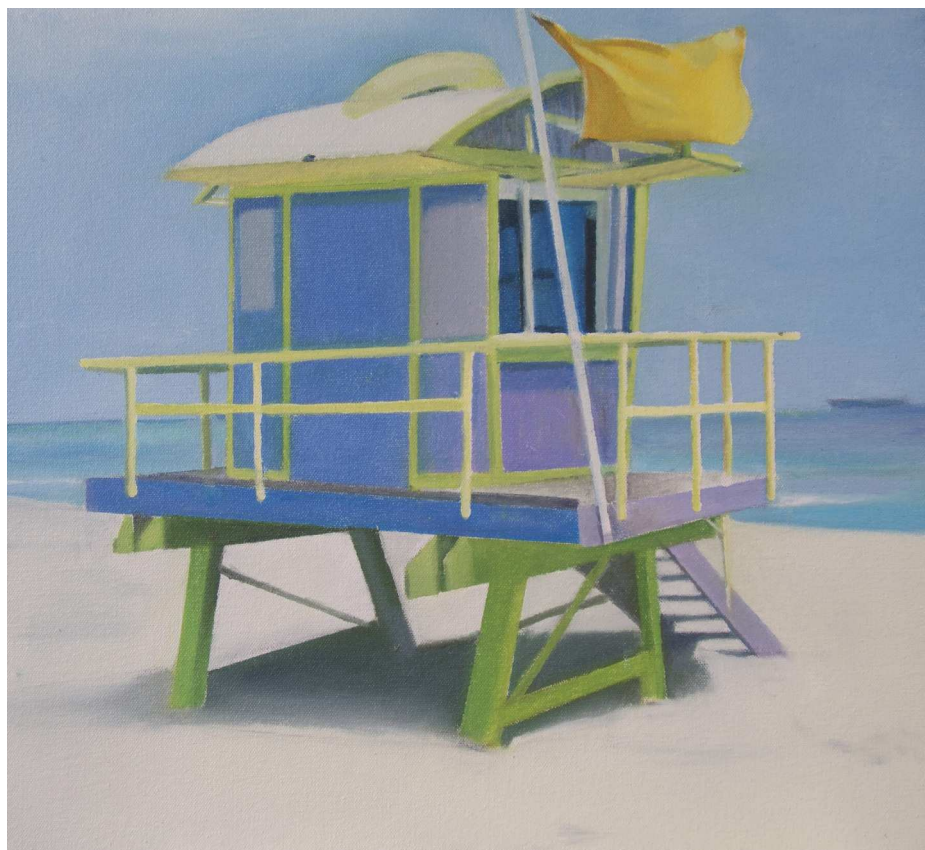
Front cover: Peninsula 2021 oil on canvas 42 x 32cm



Panton's Girl 2019 oil on canvas 54 x 66cm



Flight No. 954 2021 oil on canvas 38 x 42cm



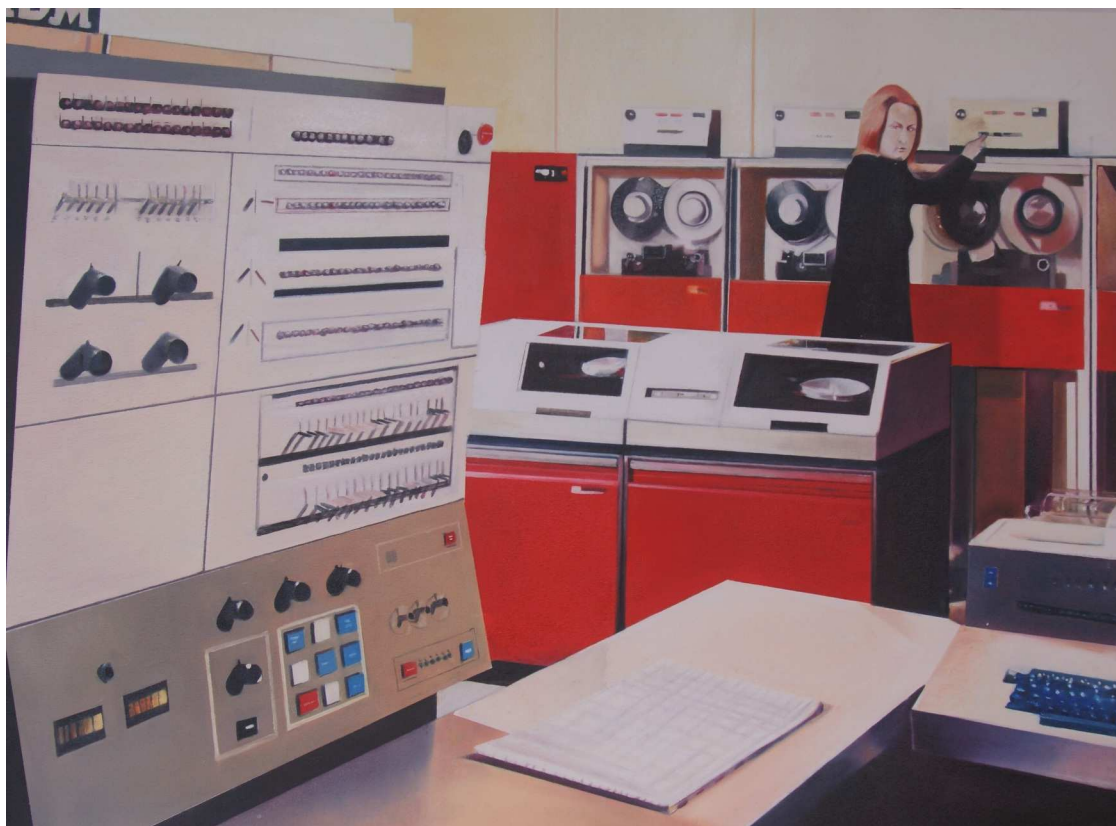
Lifeguard Station 2021 oil on canvas 38 x 42cm



Donald Judd's Bedroom, 101 Spring Street, NY 2017 oil on canvas 63.5 x 79cm



The Lady 2021 oil on canvas 72 x 119cm



The Computer 2021 oil on canvas 88 x 117cm



The Future Starts Here 2019 oil on canvas 147 x 124cm



The Human Touch 2019 oil on canvas 83 x 94cm



The Stairs 2020 oil on canvas 35 x 34cm



Stay Seated 2020 oil on canvas 37.5 x 44cm



Ben in the Workshop 2017 oil on canvas 41 x 31cm



Felix 2021 oil on canvas 40 x 30cm



DeskTop 2017 oil on canvas 66 x 80cm



Holding Time 2021 oil on canvas 66 x 85cm



Studio View. Photo: Jasmine Photography.

Born 1971

Currently lives and works in Cambridge, U.K.

Education

1995 M.A. Fine Art/Painting Chelsea College of Art

Solo Exhibitions

2014 *Design*, Nord Gallery, Cambridge

2007 *The Future Past*, Mark Jason Gallery, London

2006 *The Usefulness Of Chairs*, Design Centre Tasmania

2002 *Mobilia*, Hirschl Contemporary Art, London

Mobilia, Mission Gallery, Swansea

Selected Group Exhibitions

2021 *SFSA Painting Open*, no format Gallery, London

2020 *Then and Now*, Terrace Gallery, London

2019 *The Cambridge Show*, Kettle's Yard, Cambridge

This Instead of That, ArtHouse1 Gallery, London

2018 *Counter Balance*, Trinity Art Gallery, London

This Instead of That, Lewisham Arthouse, London

2017 *Silent Painting*, Tripp Gallery, London

DeskTop, ArtKapsule, London

2016 *Scandinavia*, Willesden Gallery, London

AB, Modern Vintage, Amsterdam

2015 *The Places We Go*, A.P. T. Gallery, London

Human Traces, Cambridge University

2013 *Human Traces*, Stour Space, London

Awards

2020 Covid 19 Arts Council Award

2001 Commissions East Mentoring Award

1999 Shortlisted for MOMART

1998 NatWest Art Prize

1997 John Moores 19

1996 Abbey Scholar, British School at Rome

1995 The Florence Trust Award

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