

GAZELLI ART HOUSE



Derek Boshier, *David Bowie as The Elephant Man*, 1980, Oil on Canvas, 76 x 61 cm.

Private View: 10th January 2019, 6-8pm

Exhibition Dates: 11th January - 23rd February 2019

Robert Fraser's Groovy Arts Club Band

Clive Barker, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Peter Blake, Derek Boshier, Brian Clarke, Jim Dine, Jean Dubuffet, Richard Hamilton, Keith Haring, Jann Haworth, Bridget Riley, Ed Ruscha, Colin Self

Gazelli Art House presents *Robert Fraser's Groovy Arts Club Band* celebrating the esteemed gallerist Robert Fraser (1937-1986) curated by Mila Askarova and David G.A. Stephenson.

This exciting group exhibition brings together thirteen artists who Fraser championed during his time along with other members of the pop art movement. Alongside the exhibition, a launch of a vinyl containing fourteen songs all in tribute to Fraser, a.k.a. Groovy Bob, is debuted. The exhibition title takes inspiration from Harriet Vyner's oral history of Fraser entitled *Groovy Bob*, one of the key influencers and trendsetters in the 1960's when pop culture, music and art collided.

Fraser led a glamorous life and embodied the cultural movement of the 'Swinging Sixties'. He was a high profile and flamboyant bridge between the worlds of contemporary art and rock music, bringing together artists, writers, celebrities and rock stars, most prominently The Beatles and The Rolling Stones. His gallery became a focal point for modern art in Britain and through his exhibitions, he helped to launch and promote the work of many important new British and American artists, introducing Jean-Michel Basquiat and Andy Warhol to the London art scene. Fraser is best known for being the artistic director for The Beatles' *Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* album cover, commissioning Peter Blake and Jann Haworth to create the artwork which Derek Boshier took as inspiration for creating the revamped vinyl today.

"Building on the gallery's historic exhibitions, we're delighted to revisit the 1960s era once more following our 2016 show, *This is Today*. This time, we're celebrating Fraser's legacy with an exhibition dedicated to the pop art he championed, highlighting the artists continued relevance today. The works on display, along with the special edition vinyl, will transport the viewer back to an era full of charisma and excitement" said Mila Askarova.

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Notes to editors:

- This exhibition is a continuation of Gazelli Art House's 2016 *This is Today* show that was held at the London gallery, celebrating the 60th anniversary from *This is Tomorrow* exhibition at Whitechapel. Exhibiting artists included: Archigram, Derek Boshier, Bernard Cohen, Magda Cordell McHale, Sir Eduardo Paolozzi, John Plumb, Richard Smith and Ian Stephenson.

- Every year Gazelli Art House hosts historic exhibitions, revisiting movements that are relevant to practices of contemporary artists today.

About Gazelli Art House

Gazelli Art House represents a wide range of international artists through its London and Baku galleries and presents a broad and critically acclaimed programme through global public projects and exhibitions. The gallery was founded in 2003 in Baku, Azerbaijan where it originally held exhibitions with local artists. Mila Askarova, Founding Director, opened a permanent space on Dover Street in 2012 following a series of conceptually interlinked off-site exhibitions across London. During the same year, the Window Project was launched to offer recent art school graduates an innovative display platform three times a year. In 2015, the gallery launched Gazell.io, a monthly online residency for digital artworks and *Enter Through The Headset*, an annual VR show. The Window Project, Gazell.io and *Enter Through The Headset* highlight the gallery's on-going commitment to supporting artists across different mediums.

For further information please visit: www.gazelliarthouse.com