ALL ABOUT ART

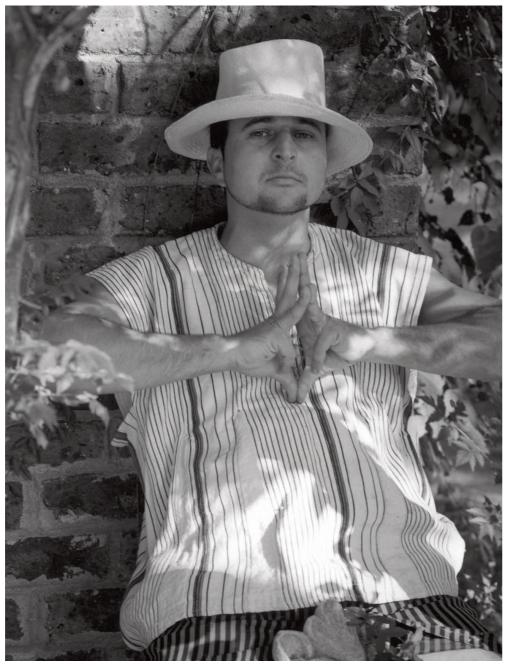
BEEZY BAILEY

Published by Circa Press, March 2019.

'Beezy paints like he cooks: complete confidence, no recipe, wild exuberance and lots of strong, rich colours. He's an African artist, as colourful as the tropics, and as full of life'. Brian Eno

eezy Bailey is an artist who eludes easy categorisation painter, sculptor, printmaker, performance artist, surrealist, collaborator, iconoclast, opportunist – these are just a few of the names that have been used to describe this restless artist. Perhaps the most accurate of all is simply to say 'artist', a definition truthful beyond its seeming simplicity in the scope it has offered Beezy for a fascinating life lived in art.

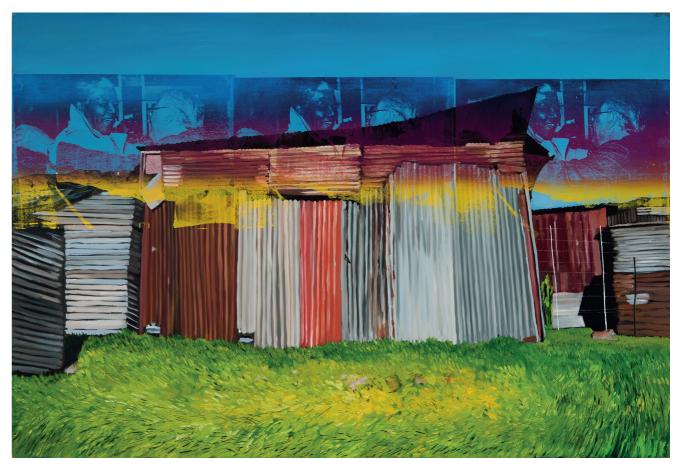
This beautiful monograph, with introduction by Brian Eno and essays by Richard Cork, art historian, and Roslyn Sulcas, culture writer for the New York Times, offers a glimpse into the multihued and ever expansive world of Beezy Bailey. We find an artist set alight by the need to find expression for his creativity, illustrated here by work from more than three decades and across the entire range of his creative output.



Above - Beezy Bailey, image courtesy and copyright: Bruce Weber



Beezy Bailey As it is in Heaven Oil on canvas 180x250cm Image courtesy: **Everard Read Gallery**



Above - Beezy Bailey. Rainbow Men, 2010 Oil, silkscreen and enamel on canvas, 170 x 250 cm Image courtesy: Everard Read Gallery



Below - Beezy Bailey The Moon Cried When The Elephant Died And The Poacher Ran To Hide, 2018 Oil on canvas, 90×120 cm Image courtesy: Everard Read Gallery

One of South Africa's leading artists, Beezy's eclectic and effervescent approach to art, has attracted a stellar list of fellow polymaths as collaborators, including David Bowie, Brian Eno and Dave Matthews. His is a storybook career that has spanned early encounters with Andy Warhol – which was to inspire Bailey's own Cape Town version of The Factory – as well as the invention of an artistic female alter-ego, Joyce Ntobe.

A love of storytelling on a grand scale is perhaps not surprising for an artist whose own family history, touched on in this book, reads like an adventure story. His father, Jim Bailey, was the publisher of the seminal magazine Drum, and grandmother Mary was a pioneer of aviation. We see these early influences in a dizzying array of engaging, often lyrical characters, including mystical flying men and his Chinese fantasy character, Lee Ping Zing.

This is not to say that he is detached from the concerns of real life, however. Beezy aspires to create art as a balm for a mad world – a corrective for our most lamentable human qualities, including a planet brutalized by extremes of wealth and poverty, environmental ignorance and negligence. The sources of his imagery are elusive. In his own words: 'frozen dreams, images and legends enter from my subconscious, the realm of my imagination. I act as a conduit for visual messages greater than I am.'

This is a book that surprises, challenges and delights in equal measure, an introduction to an artist who challenges the status quo and our own preconceptions. In Beezy, we find a rare artist, one whose 'sense of freedom gives his output a darting, inquisitive quality that sharpens our curiosity', says Richard Cork.

BEEZY BAILEY

Authors: Richard Cork and Roslyn Sulcas Designer: Herman Lelie Publication: Circa Press, 4 March 2019 Hardcover 29 × 29cm 240pp; approx. 140 colour images £45.00 | \$60.00 Publication and launch information London: Everard Read Gallery, 4 March 2019 Image courtesy: Everard Read Gallery



Above - Beezy Bailey Wild Horses on Mars, 2017 Oil on canvas, 90x120cm Image courtesy: Everard Read Gallery Below - Beezy Bailey Polishing The Floor, 1992, Linocut Joyce Ntobe (B.Bailey) Image courtesy: Everard Read Gallery



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