

## Barry Flanagan

### *When Barry meets Jarry*

9 March - 29 April 2023

Opening on Thursday 9 March at 6 p.m.

38 avenue Matignon  
75008 Paris



*Nijinsky Five*, 2005  
Bronze, 77 x 37 x 47 cm (30,3 x 14,5 x 18,5 in.)

In 1964, Barry Flanagan was 23 years old. He had already received a classical art education in Birmingham, had all sorts of odd jobs (antique dealer, cook, model, film set designer, etc.) and hung out with poets. He moved to London, had Phillip King and Anthony Caro as teachers at St Martin's School, and started a small avant-garde magazine *Silâns*. That's when Barry met Jarry. Picking up an issue of the *Evergreen Review* devoted to 'Pataphysics' that a poet friend had given him in 1962, Flanagan was delighted by the extracts from the *Exploits and Opinions of Dr Faustroll, Pataphysician* by Alfred Jarry that he discovered there. This 'revelation' of the 'science of imaginary solutions' and the discovery of the saga of Jarry's Père Ubu would inform much of what he would create over the next 45 years.

Like Alfred Jarry (1873-1907), independence and radical creative freedom are the thread that runs through his work, from *Hole in the Sea* in 1969 to *Monument to Letters* in 2005. Unpredictable and unclassifiable, subtle and deadpan, practising the art of the wink, such is the artist who will be (re)discovered through this selection of sculptures, textile works, drawings and prints brought together in collaboration with the Barry Flanagan Estate.

Barry Flanagan was born in Prestatyn (Wales) in 1941 and died in Ibiza in 2009. He is one of the great sculptors of the last third of the twentieth century, famous throughout the world for his haars represented as thinkers, dancers, acrobats, etc., present in many public spaces on every continent. His work can be found in major museums around the world.

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