cabinet of curiosity



"Can Hugh escape?..."

Michael ffolkes (born Brian Davis)

AED 2000

One of a kind

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ABOUT

Ink drawing by Michael ffolkes titled “Can Hugh Escape?” The sheet includes a pencilled upper annotation reading “Gaitskell’s future in doubt” and a caption below the image: “CAN HUGH ESCAPE? Don’t miss Next Week’s Thrilling Instalment.”

The composition depicts a caricature of Hugh Gaitskell bound and seated over a trapdoor, surrounded by snakes, rising water, and three crocodiles patterned with the inscriptions "Victory for Socialis..." A suspended stone block hangs above on a rope, while two rats cross a rope near the upper edge. Signed ffolkes within the image. Newly framed under museum glass.

Michael ffolkes, born Brian Davis (British, 1925–1988), was a cartoonist and illustrator active in post-war British print media. After service in the Royal Navy during the Second World War, he studied at St Martin’s School of Art. He began contributing to Punch in the early 1950s and went on to publish work in The New Yorker, The Spectator, Private Eye, and several national newspapers. Ffolkes also illustrated books and worked as a storyboard artist for television and film productions. His career encompassed editorial cartooning, humorous illustration, and visual commentary across mid- to late-20th-century British publications.

ITEM DETAILS

Reference: #PH067

CREATOR	PERIOD / DATE	PLACE OF ORIGIN
Michael ffolkes (born Brian Davis)	1950s	England

DIMENSIONS	MATERIALS & TECHNIQUES	CONDITION
Unknown	Ink on Paper	Excellent