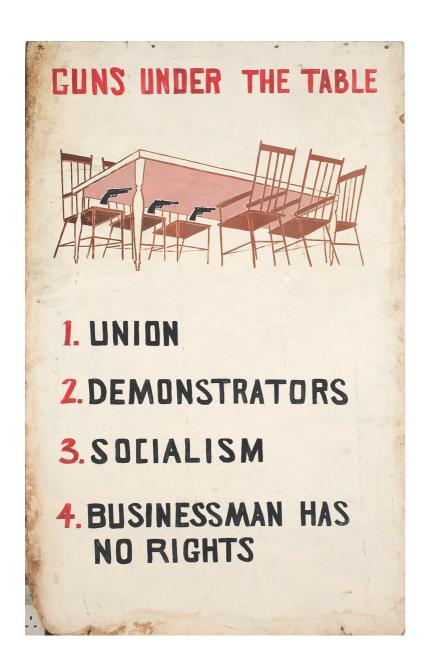
George Thaxton Miller by John Baldessari



I am fascinated by *Guns Under the Table* by GT Miller. Why?

1. It is utterly artless. I can't see that it issues from western art in any way.

- 2. It is a tangle of perspective drawing which produces haywire optical illusions.
- 3. Why six chairs and three guns? Are the three far chairs for tentative users of the three sub rosa guns under the table to be used upon the three tentative users of the three close chairs it's all so theatrical. If you see a gun upon a table in the first act of a play, it is certain that the gun will be used before the final act. Guns Under the Table does sound like a play or movie title. But what does it mean? Is it a saying or maxim used in business/labour relations? But what does that mean? That arbitration involves possible violence? What was the purpose of this work and what was its context? Does the red/black color scheme resonate as Marxism?

I feel certain that it was not meant to be art but I wish I could do work that is as elemental as this.

John Baldessari b 1931 (USA) artist, professor professor UCLA (Los Angeles)