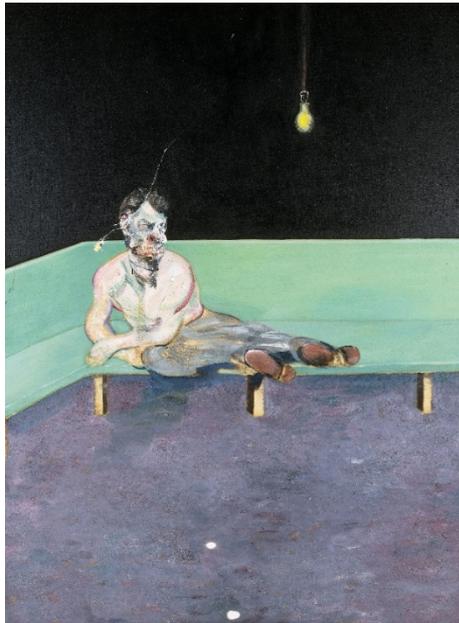


## EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS

# BACON PORTRAIT OF FREUD SHOWN FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1965



Francis Bacon Study for a Portrait of Lucian Freud 1964

A large-scale painting by Francis Bacon of his friend Lucian Freud is being shown in Tate Britain's landmark exhibition *All Too Human: Bacon, Freud and a Century of Painting Life*. The work was only seen in public shortly after it was completed – firstly in London in 1964 and then in Hamburg and Stockholm in 1965. It has since remained in private hands and has not been exhibited for over half a century.

Bacon and Freud had a deep and complex friendship, and were often viewed as artistic rivals. They first met in the mid-1940s and were inseparable for years, seeing each other almost daily in Soho's bars and clubs as well as visiting each other's studios and occasionally sitting for portraits. The portrait on show at Tate Britain is an angst-ridden image of the human figure, bare chested and curled into the corner of a dark room beneath a single lightbulb. The painting stands over six feet high and was originally part of a triptych which Bacon then split into separate works. It was first unveiled in 1964 at the group exhibition *Aspects of XX Century Art* held at Bacon's gallery Marlborough Fine Art. It then travelled from the Kunstverein Hamburg to the

Moderna Museet in Stockholm over the following year as part of a solo show of Bacon's work, but has not been seen in public since.

The work is one of several key Bacon paintings on loan to Tate Britain for *All Too Human*. These include an important portrait of Bacon's lover Peter Lacy made in 1962, the year of Lacey's death, and not seen in the UK since. It shows him seated with a scowling expression and is the first time Bacon portrayed the nude body with its internal organs on display, seemingly bursting through the surface of its skin. An extraordinary Bacon triptych from 1974-77, on loan from a private collection, is also exhibited for the first time in a UK public gallery in over 30 years. A final homage to George Dyer, the great love of Bacon's life, it shows a contorted body beneath a black umbrella on a cold stretch of beach.

Alex Farquharson, Director, Tate Britain said: 'This is an unmissable opportunity to see some truly extraordinary paintings, many of which have not been seen for decades. With this exhibition we want to show how British figurative painters found new and powerful ways to capture life on canvas throughout the 20th century, and Bacon's portraits are some of the greatest examples of that endeavour.'



Francis Bacon Portrait 1962



Francis Bacon Triptych August 1972 1975

