

Artist Resources – Frank Auerbach (German-British, b. 1931)



Auerbach, 2001
Photograph: Kevin Davies

[Auerbach at the Tate](#)

[Auerbach at Marlborough Gallery](#)

Read a [rare interview](#) with the artist in the Evening Standard with William Feaver, published in 2009.

[Frank Auerbach: London Building Sites 1952-62](#) was on display at The Courtauld in 2010. The exhibition surveyed the artist’s interest in the architectural rebuild of London after the Second World War. Watch an [“Introduction to the Exhibition”](#) video with the curator, Dr. Barnaby Wright.

In 2014, *Frank Auerbach, Works from the Lucian Freud Estate* traveled to the [Tate Britain](#) and other UK-based arts organizations. Read more about the Auerbach works that Freud collected in [The Guardian](#).

Read a 2015 [article](#) in The Guardian surveying Auerbach’s six-decade career.

The Tate Britain launched a [major retrospective](#) in 2015-2016 that featured paintings and drawings from the 1950s onward. In light of that exhibition, the National Gallery’s Special Projects Curator published a survey of the artist’s relationship with the [National Gallery](#).

[Frank Auerbach: From Drawing to Painting](#) was on display at Alma Zevi, Venice, in 2019. This was the artist’s first solo exhibition in Italy in over 30 years. Read an [interview](#) published in conjunction with the exhibition about the importance of drawing in Auerbach’s practice.

Auerbach had a solo exhibition at [Luhring Augstine New York](#) in 2021. Read a review in the [New York Times](#): “The Gloopy Glory of Frank Auerbach.” Also [watch a conversation](#) between art historian Catherine Lampert, writer Jim Lewis, and the Brooklyn Rail’s Phong H. Bui about fifty years of Auerbach’s work in collaboration with the gallery.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Auerbach turned to self-portraiture. Read an article in [The Guardian](#) by Dalya Alberge: “Frank Auerbach: how artist drew himself for Covid ‘plague years’ drawings.”

[Frank Auerbach: Unseen](#) was installed at Newlands House Gallery in West Sussex in 2022. Read a review in [The Times](#) by Rachel Campbell-Johnston and another in [The Guardian](#) by Johnathan Jones.

The 2022-2023 [Gagosian exhibition](#) *Friends and Relations: Lucian Freud, Francis Bacon, Frank Auerbach, Michael Andrews* explores the connections between these infamous artists. Read a [review](#) in The Art Newspaper about the exhibition and an [interview](#) with Auerbach about his relationships with fellow artists included.



Auerbach in his studio, 2008
Photograph: Eamonn McCabe



Frank Auerbach (German-British, b. 1931)

Head of E.O.W., 1956

Charcoal and chalk on paper

Private Collection; L2022:120.1

Frank Auerbach was born to a Jewish family in Berlin and sent to the United Kingdom to escape Nazi persecution when he was seven. Auerbach studied art in many institutions in his adopted country, where he was naturalized as a British citizen in 1947. The artist's paintings and drawings are largely figurative and deeply relational; Auerbach often develops close bonds with both his human subjects and the cities in which he works.

Head of E.O.W. is a drawing of Estella (Stella) West, who posed for over eighty of Auerbach's artworks from the early 1950s until 1973. In his studio, the artist works entirely from life and completes his portraits across dozens of sittings where he draws, erases, and reworks the image many times over. Auerbach once said: "I destroy things every day in the act of working and often recall a picture I had considered finished in order to rework it."

On view December 12, 2022 – March 19, 2023