



Advanced Information Sheet

Title

Bacon's Eye: Works on paper attributed to Francis Bacon from the Barry Joule Archive

Author

essay by Mark Sladen;
interview with Barry Joule

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(to co-incide with the exhibition of the same name at the Barbican Art Gallery, London)

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Source 21 Publishing

Description

Francis Bacon died of a heart attack in 1992. During his lifetime the artist maintained that he painted straight onto canvas without the benefit of preparatory studies. However, since the artist's death several groups of works on paper have come to light, offering amazing new insights into Bacon's working methods – and his personal obsessions.

This book (the catalogue for an exhibition at the Barbican Art Gallery, London) showcases a unique collection of works on paper that were bundled up and given to Bacon's friend Barry Joule by Bacon just before he died. There are over 1000 items in what is now known as the Joule Archive. One of the most significant parts of the archive is The X Album, a collection of 70 oil sketches painted in a photograph album that apparently once belonged to Bacon's nanny. These drawings relate to Bacon's work from the 50s and 60s, and include many nudes and portraits, as well as studies of facial malformations.

The Joule Archive also includes over 900 'working documents'- photographs that have been torn from books, magazines and newspapers, many of them folded, scratched or worked over with paint. Here are reproductions of some of Bacon's most famous subjects, such as the painting by Velazquez from which he made his screaming Pope. But the working documents are also an amazing compendium of images in their own right, revealing an artist's eye-

view of some of the most important people and events of the 20th Century.

At the time of going to print these works had not been officially recognised as being by Bacon. And although the curators and publisher had wanted to show these works alongside Bacon's paintings permission to do so was categorically denied by the Bacon Estate. Working against a backdrop of intrigue and mystery the show and the book have now been unveiled. The Barbican, 21 Publishing and a host of Bacon experts firmly believe that the majority of the works are by Bacon and now invite the public to judge for themselves.

Selling Points

- a comprehensive and beautifully presented record and showcase of the best works on paper attributed to Francis Bacon
- this book and the exhibition it accompanies will play a major part in the reassessment of Bacon's working practice
- an essential purchase for anyone interested in Bacon including academics, curators and librarians
- many of the drawings throw new light on Bacon's working methods
- controversy has surrounded the Archive, with the Bacon Estate refusing permission for its paintings to be included in the exhibition or catalogue.

Marketing and PR

This book benefited enormously initially from the marketing and publicity surrounding the exhibition: reviews appeared in all the national papers and was to be covered on R4's Front Row. The book was mentioned on all Barbican press releases and in Barbican leaflets. The show will run for over 2 months.