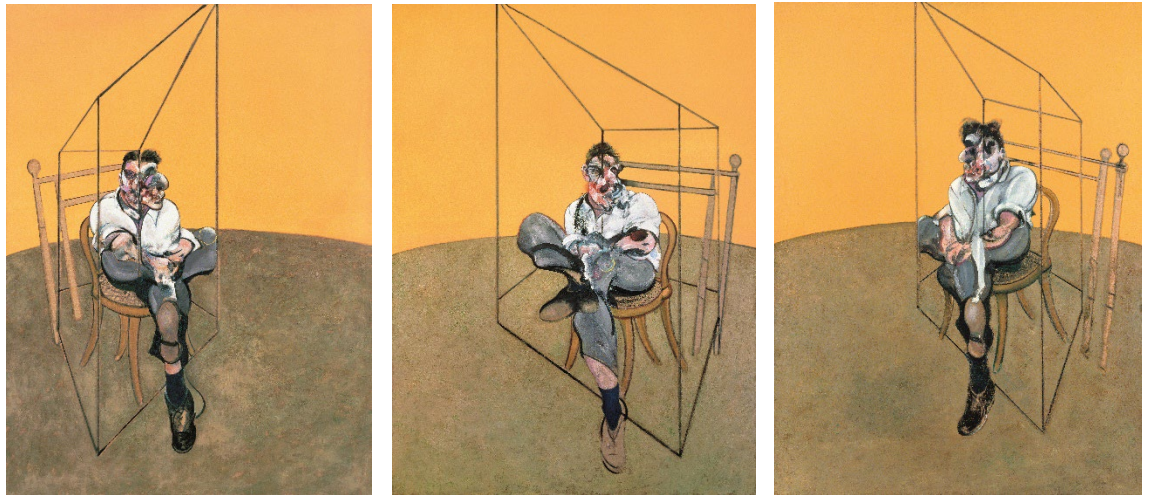


**Francis Bacon's *Three Studies of Lucian Freud* (1969) Is
Bequeathed to LACMA by the Estate of Elaine Wynn**

**First Work by Bacon to Enter LACMA's Collection Will Be Shown in
the Inaugural Installation in the David Geffen Galleries**



(Image captions on page 2)

(Los Angeles, CA—September 9, 2025) The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) announced today that Francis Bacon's triptych *Three Studies of Lucian Freud* (1969) has been gifted to the museum as a bequest of the late philanthropist and co-chair of LACMA's board of trustees, Elaine Wynn. The first work by Bacon to enter LACMA's collection, *Three Studies of Lucian Freud* is the only painting by Bacon in a Los Angeles public collection, as well as the only triptych by the artist in a California public collection.

"Elaine was among the most generous and supportive leaders in LACMA's entire history," said Michael Govan, LACMA CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director. "She was our biggest champion, and was as passionate about accessibility to art as she was about works of art. Thanks to Elaine's incredible generosity, Bacon's masterpiece will belong to LACMA and the public."

One of the most important and celebrated painters of the last century, Irish-born British figurative painter Francis Bacon (1909–1992) was known for his strident, distorted images of crucifixions, self-portraits, portraits of popes, and of a few close friends. Bacon and British painter Lucian Freud were intimate friends and artistic rivals for a quarter of a century, and *Three Studies of Lucian Freud* (1969) is a towering life-size portrait of Freud, painted in Bacon's celebrated triptych format at the height of their relationship. One of two triptychs Bacon painted of his fellow artist,

Three Studies of Lucian Freud was exhibited shortly after it was completed, and then the panels were separated for 15 years, only to be reunited in 1999. The painting has not been seen publicly since being acquired by Wynn at auction in 2013, for a world-record price.

The triptych will be included in the inaugural installation of the David Geffen Galleries, LACMA's home for the permanent collection, designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Peter Zumthor, that is anticipated to open to the public in April 2026.

About LACMA: Located on the Pacific Rim, LACMA is the largest art museum in the western United States, with a collection of more than 150,000 objects that illuminate 6,000 years of artistic expression across the globe. Committed to showcasing a multitude of art histories, LACMA exhibits and interprets works of art from new and unexpected points of view that are informed by the region's rich cultural heritage and diverse population. LACMA's spirit of experimentation is reflected in its work with artists, technologists, and thought leaders as well as in its regional, national, and global partnerships to share collections and programs, create pioneering initiatives, and engage new audiences.

Location: 5905 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA, 90036. lacma.org

Image caption: Francis Bacon, *Three Studies of Lucian Freud*, 1969, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, gift of Elaine P. Wynn, © The Estate of Francis Bacon. All rights reserved, DACS Images 2025, Photo: Prudence Cuming Associates Ltd

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