

# FRANCIS BACON

## MONACO & FRENCH CULTURE

By Force One Magazine

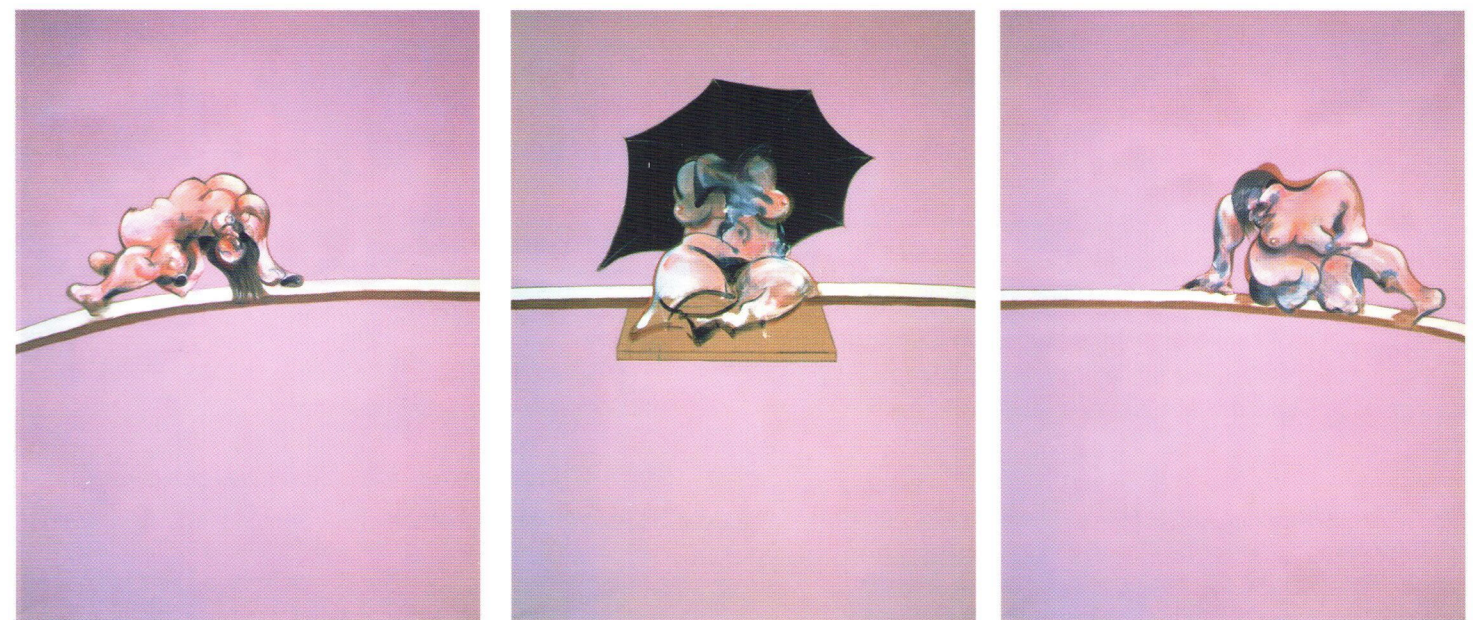
**A perfect synthesis of Francis Bacon's thought: art comes from chaos. In his words: "I want a very ordered image, but I want it to come about by chance" (Bacon during an interview with David Sylvester, 1966.**

Chance, order, chaos and how they interact; the relationship and inspiration from the work of great masters like Toulouse-Lautrec, Picasso, Giacometti, Léger and Soutine; a life that brought a young and fragile boy of British origins to become one of the most important 20<sup>th</sup> century artists...

And Monaco wants to celebrate this artist and his influence on contemporary art through an exhibition that will draw light on a particular period of his life and work: his Monegasque years that had a crucial impact on his oeuvre. Major triptychs as well as famous and less well-known paintings will be displayed thematically and will show direct and indirect relationships to France and Monaco.

Francis Bacon, in fact, lived and worked in Monaco from July 1946 until the early fifties. It was in the Principality that he painted his first "pope," mainly inspired by Velázquez's *Portrait of Pope Innocent X*. In Monaco, he started to paint on the reverse of his canvas, and he began to concentrate his work on the human form. It was a decisive stage in his career, which led him to being recognized as one of the most enigmatic post-war figurative artists.

The exhibition **Francis Bacon, Monaco and French Culture** will open on the **2<sup>nd</sup> of July** and will last **until the 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2016 at the Grimaldi Forum of Monaco** and will take place with the support of the Estate of Francis Bacon in London, and the Francis Bacon MB Art Foundation based in Monaco (the curator is Martin Harrison, author of



*Triptych - Studies on the Human Body*  
1970 / Oil on canvas / 198x147,5 cm / Private Collection, Courtesy Ordovas

© The Estate of Francis Bacon. All rights reserved, DACS 2016.  
Photo : Prudence Cumming Associates Ltd



the forthcoming *Francis Bacon Catalogue Raisonné* (publication April 2016).

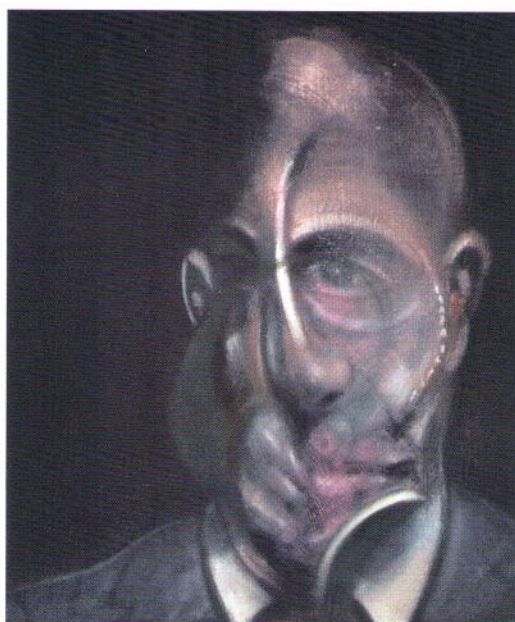
This major art show will bring together more than sixty paintings by Bacon himself, alongside works by leading artists who inspired him including: *Head VI* (1949) from the Arts Council England, the extraordinary *Fragment of a Crucifixion* (1950, Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven), and *Pope I: Study After Pope Innocent X by Velázquez* (1951, from Aberdeen Art Gallery). There will be a number of works, many rarely if ever displayed, from private collections, like *Triptych – Studies of the Human Body* (1970), *Turning Figure* (1962), *Portrait of a Man Walking Down Steps*, (1972), Bacon's most poignant tribute to George Dyer, painted shortly after his death.

Finally the exhibition includes - for the first time - Francis Bacon's first work, *Watercolours* (1929, Francis Bacon MB Art Foundation) and Bacon's last painting, completed in 1991, the never before exhibited *Study of a Bull*.

On 26<sup>th</sup> April 2016, the Grimaldi Forum Monaco invited the public to a special evening event in honour of the artist, to mark the 24th anniversary of Francis Bacon's death Art lovers had a glimpse of the upcoming exhibition and were given an insight into Francis Bacon's strong links with the Principality, where he lived at various times. This exhibition will be the first major event to be organized under the auspices of the newly founded Francis Bacon MB Art Foundation, inaugurated in Monaco on 28 October 2014 (to coincide with the artist's birthday) by HSH Prince Albert II.

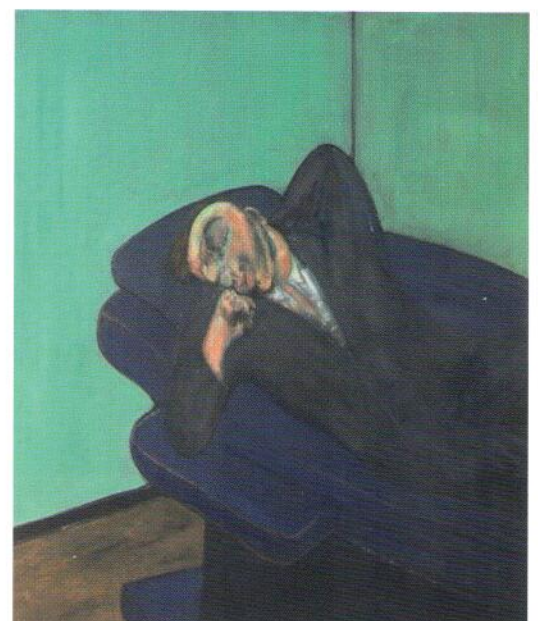
**... what is  
art about?  
It is trying  
to make  
something  
out of  
the chaos  
of existence.**

*Francis Bacon*



*Portrait of Michel Leiris*  
1976 / Oil on canvas / 35,5x30,5 cm / Centre Pompidou Paris

© The Estate of Francis Bacon. All rights reserved, DACS 2015.  
Photo : Prudence Cuming Associates Ltd



*Lying Figure*  
1958 / Oil on canvas / 153,5x119,5 cm / Museum Bochum, Germany

© The Estate of Francis Bacon. All rights reserved, DACS 2015.  
Photo : Hugo Maertens