

Lucian Freud influences and social context

- **Lucian Freud** was born into a **wealthy Jewish family** in Berlin on Dec 8 1922, the middle brother of three. His father, an architect, was the youngest son of **Sigmund Freud**, the founder of psychoanalysis.
- The rising tide of **anti-Semitism in Germany** and the appointment of Hitler as Chancellor prompted the Freuds to **move to England in 1933**.
- **Expelled from school at 15** he started Art Collage first at Central School London, then East Anglian School, and was taught by **Cedric Morris**.
- In war time London he took a studio, he was considered to be a prodigy, and known already for being very eccentric, walking around the streets in a fur coat and carrying a bird of prey!
- Freud spent his time in London drinking, gambling and moving between the lower and upper parts of society.
- From 1946 until 1948 Freud lived and painted in **Greece and France**, where he met **Picasso**,
- When Freud returned to England in 1948 it was to begin teaching at the Slade, and to **marry Kitty Garman**, the daughter of the sculptor Jacob Epstein.
- **Freud's wife became the subject of his first important series of portraits**, notable for their flat contours, stylized line and stark lighting. The wide-eyed subject of *Girl With Roses* (1946-48) and *Girl With Leaves* (1945) is treated with an unsettling, detached sensuality reminiscent of 15th-century Flemish portraiture or, more recently, of Ingres – **so much so that Herbert Read called Freud "the Ingres of existentialism"**.



Cedric Morris was Freud's tutor.



Ingres 'Portrait of Princes Albert' 1850 as a student he copied his work.



Lucian Freud Girl with Roses (1946 -48)

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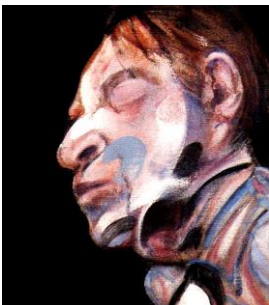
Freud was heavily influenced in **his early work** by a group of 20th century figurative painters known as **the Slade School**, **William Roberts and Stanley Spencer's**, use of flat cubism, and distortion is evident in his work from pre 1950. His work was compared at this time to German expressionism, something he denied



William Roberts 'The Stock Broker' 1920

From the 1950s, he began to work in **portraiture**, often nudes (though his first full length nude was not painted until 1966), [\[15\]](#) to the almost complete exclusion of everything else, and by the middle of the decade developed a much **more free style** using **large hogs-hair brushes**, with an **intense concentration of the texture** and colour of flesh, and much thicker paint, including **impasto**. Influenced by his friendships with Frank Auerbach and Francis Bacon he took on a much looser paint style and impulsive handling of paint.

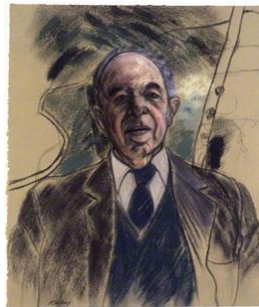
The London School



Francis Bacon



Frank Auerbach



R.B. Kitaj



Michael Andrews

He became part of a group of painters called '**The London School**' a **group of figurative painters** at its core who were drawn together by shared respect from the late 1950's onwards. They followed each other's work closely and exhibited in the same West End gallery.

Freud worked exclusively from life, usually using a nude model posed on his studio's threadbare furnishings or against piles of painter's rags. He would **start with a rough charcoal sketch** on the canvas, and then lay in the paint, working from the head outwards. Occasionally he would extend the canvas by gluing on extra strips to accommodate the composition.

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