



## **The Francis Bacon MB Art Foundation opened in Monaco on 28 October 2014, the anniversary of Francis Bacon's birthday.**

The Francis Bacon MB Art Foundation, based in Monaco, is a private non-profit institute dedicating its scholarly activities and research to the most enigmatic British figurative artist of the post-war era.

The Foundation's mission is to promote a deeper understanding of the work, life and methodology of Francis Bacon worldwide, with a particular focus on the time that the artist lived and worked in Monaco and France. The institute supports original research, sponsors emerging artists, organizes exhibitions and seminars on Bacon with local and international institutions, and funds projects related to the artist.

The Estate of Francis Bacon welcomes the Foundation and will collaborate with it on research and educational activities. The art historian Martin Harrison, editor of the Francis Bacon Catalogue Raisonné, is on the board of this institute.

The Foundation was established by Majid Boustany, who first came across Francis Bacon's work whilst taking a course in Art History alongside his academic studies in Business and International Relations. An encounter with Bacon's seminal triptych *Three Studies for Figures at the Base of a Crucifixion* (1944) at the Tate Gallery started Boustany on a path of discovery that continues to this day: "Bacon's enigmatic triptych challenged interpretation and triggered in me the need to explore his world", the founder says.

Boustany's immersion into Bacon's oeuvre goes back to the 1990s; he quickly discovered that the artist had lived and worked in Monaco from July 1946 to the early 1950s and frequently returned to the Principality throughout his life. "Bacon often made references to his life and work in Monaco" says the founder, who himself has called Monaco home for more than twenty years. Boustany decided to house his Foundation on the ground floor of the Villa Elise, 21 Boulevard d'Italie, situated in the heart of Monaco. The institute is open throughout the year to scholars, art historians and to the general public, twice a week, by appointment only.

The founder has been building over a number of years a comprehensive art collection dedicated to Francis Bacon of more than 2400 items that now includes: a selection of paintings by Bacon from the late 1920s to the early 1980s and work by key peers and influences, a unique photographic archive on the artist by leading photographers as well as by his friends and lovers, a comprehensive collection of Bacon's exhibition catalogues, a wide selection of the artist's graphic works, a unique array of working documents from Bacon's various studios, a number of rare items from Bacon's furniture and rug designer period and a library dedicated to the artist offering an essential resource for scholars.

The Foundation website is: [www.mbartfoundation.com](http://www.mbartfoundation.com)

### **First publication by the Francis Bacon MB Art Foundation**

This first book to be published introduces the objectives of the **Francis Bacon MB Art Foundation**.

The book then throws light on the close ties that Bacon had with the Principality of Monaco, the South of France and the City of Light.

Two eminent art historians, Martin Harrison and Eddy Batache, have enriched this publication with their texts. The book closes with a highly comprehensive chronology of the artist.

### **First project sponsored by the Foundation**

The art historian, Katharina Günther, was the first recipient of the **MB Art Foundation Scholarship**.

She undertook a twelve-month research project analysing a collection of hitherto un-researched material associated with Francis Bacon and the artist Denis Wirth Miller. Conclusions of this research are available on the Foundation website.

### **Projects supported by the Foundation**

- **Whitechapel Gallery**

The Francis Bacon MB Art Foundation is among the sponsors of the Whitechapel Gallery installation that is on from June 23<sup>th</sup> to 30 August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Francis Bacon's *Study for a Portrait* (1953) is the focus of an installation by James Richards at the Whitechapel Gallery, which is supported by the Francis Bacon MB Art Foundation.

<http://www.whitechapelgallery.org/exhibitions/james-richards-selects-v-c-collection/>

- **Participation in the organization of a Francis Bacon exhibition in Monaco in 2016**

The Francis Bacon MB Art Foundation will collaborate with a Monegasque institution for the organization of a major Bacon exhibition taking place in the Principality in the summer of 2016.