

The Museum of Modern Art

FRANCIS BACON

Born in 1909 of English parents, Bacon left his native Ireland at age sixteen for the European continent. Working periodically as an interior designer, Bacon spent the late 1920s in Berlin and Paris. He decided to pursue an artistic career after seeing an exhibition of Picasso's work in Paris in 1928. Settling in London a year later, he started painting, but destroyed most of these works in the early 1940s.

Bacon effectively started his career in 1944 with a three-paneled painting on the subject of the Crucifixion, which received immediate critical acclaim. In 1948 The Museum of Modern Art purchased *Painting* (1946), the first of the artist's works to be acquired by a museum. The following year Bacon had his first gallery exhibition at Erica Brausen's Hanover Gallery in London.

The artist's work is represented in major private and museum collections internationally and has been the subject of numerous museum exhibitions. The most recent of these were major retrospectives in 1985 at the Tate Gallery, London, and in 1988 at the New Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow. The Moscow showing was the first such exhibition for a living Western artist in the Soviet Union.