



## Freud's £35m clerk breaks artist record

By Tania Steere

A PORTRAIT of a Jobcentre clerk has broken the record for Lucian Freud paintings after selling for £35.8million.

The 1994 work *Benefits Supervisor Resting* shows 280-pound Sue Tilley sitting naked on a sofa.

It went under the hammer at Christie's in New York, and was bought by London art dealer Pilar Ordovas on behalf of an anonymous client.

Miss Tilley, from London, became Freud's muse in the early 1990s and posed for just £20 a day. The 58-year-old was painted four times by the artist, who died in 2011.

After Wednesday's auction, she told the *Evening Standard* she 'never in 100 years' thought the paintings would become so famous. The previous Freud record was set in 2008, when *Benefits Supervisor Sleeping* - also of Miss Tilley - sold for £17.3million.



Portrait: Sue Tilley



Masterpiece: Lucian Freud's *Benefits Supervisor Resting*, which he painted in 1994

## Can avocados cut the health risks of smog?

EATING avocados could help build resistance to air pollution.

Scientists have found that higher levels of vitamin E may help protect the lungs from 'particulates', or tiny particles of harmful smog. They can come from power plants, factories, trucks and cars and the burning of wood.

They can travel deep into the lungs and have been associated with a rise in hospital admissions for heart attacks and strokes.

A study from King's College London and Nottingham University suggests higher blood levels of vitamin E may minimise the bad effects of exposure.

Men need 15mg of vitamin E a day, while women need 12mg, and we should be able to get all we need from our daily diet. A King's College serving of avocado - roughly a half - provides 10 per cent of the recommended daily allowance of vitamin E.

For the first time, researchers found a clear link between the amount of the vitamin in the body, exposure to particulate pollution and lung function. On a study of 3,500 people from the UK taken regularly, 500 of them in London.

Dr Ana Vaidya, co-author of the study, said: 'Our work builds on a number of studies exploring whether some vitamins can counteract the negative effect on lungs from air pollution.'