


PATEK PHILIPPE
GENEVE

You never actually own a Patek Philippe.
You merely look after it for the next generation.

BOODLES
1798

THE
SPECTATOR

Search 

HOME COFFEE HOUSE MAGAZINE COLUMNISTS CULTURE HOUSE PODCAST SHOP LIFE

SUBSCRIBE

Books Arts feature Exhibitions The Heckler Music Cinema Opera Dance Theatre Design Television Radio Architecture

The artist who only turned into a major painter once he became a homicidal maniac

Plus: the night Francis Bacon booted Princess Margaret off stage and Lucian Freud met his second wife

EXHIBITIONS Martin Gayford 25 July 2015

4 Comments



'Girl in Bed' by Lucian Freud

Girl — Lucian Freud

Ordovas, until 1 August

At the Ordovas gallery, 25 Savile Row, there is an even smaller exhibition testifying to a very different kind of obsession: Lucian Freud's love for his second wife, Caroline Blackwood (1931–96). They met in 1949 at a ball given by Lady Rothermere, a memorable occasion on which Francis Bacon booted Princess Margaret off stage when she attempted to sing a Cole Porter song.

The brief time he spent with her was one to which Freud returned frequently in conversation. He was enchanted by her nervousness, which led her to chain-smoke so that her nostrils were blackened 'like railway tunnels', and her impracticality, which led her to hold matches the wrong way up, so they almost always went out.

The exhibition contains only four pictures, and is well worth visiting to see just one: 'Girl in Bed' (1952), one of Freud's early masterpieces. He records each tiny detail: her anxious, wayward look, the corrugations on her lips, and above all her huge grey-blue eyes. An unfinished fragment of a painting depicts just one of those eyes in which everything — the room in which he is painting, the whole world — seems to be reflected.

This article first appeared in the print edition of The Spectator magazine, dated 25 July 2015

Tags: Exhibitions, Lucian Freud, madness, Ordovas, outsider art, Richard Dadd, Victorians, visual art, Watts Gallery

More Spectator for less. Subscribe and receive 12 issues delivered for just £12, with full web and app access. [Join us now.](#)



Subscribe from
£1 per week

A dozen issues, plus web
and app access from £12

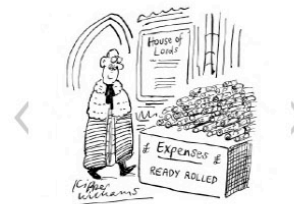
JOIN US NOW ▶



Another union backs
Corbyn as the antidote to a
Blairite 'virus'
Isabel Hardman

10

CARTOONS



The Apollo Muse Room

Your passport to the art world.
[Click here](#) for the latest from
Apollo Magazine

SPECTATOR WINE CLUB

A selection of discounted
wine offers for Spectator readers

SEE OUR LATEST OFFERS ▶

