



THE ART NEWSPAPER

Lockdown easing: the best gallery shows to see in London right now

Eerie wooden cabins, rural quiltmakers and dismembered, tentacular dolls are among our highlights from the city's commercial exhibitions

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At long last, today London's commercial galleries can reopen to the public (we've been here before but let's hope it goes better this time). Arm yourself with coffee, masks and sensible shoes, and take in our pick of shows that all launch this week, some of them having languished unseen for months. It's boring but remember to book in advance (see gallery websites for details).



Francis Bacon and Peter Beard photographed in the 1970s. Courtesy of The Estate of Peter Beard

Ordovas, Wild Life: Francis Bacon and Peter Beard ↗(until 16 July)

This exhibition focuses on the relatively little-known friendship between Francis Bacon and the late wildlife photographer Peter Beard. Organised in collaboration with Beard's estate, it's an intimate show and includes letters and photographs (among them self-portraits and aerial photographs of dead elephant carcasses) that he sent to Bacon, who would use them to paint from and discard on the "compost", as Beard called it, of his studio floor. The pair were passionate about the plight of elephants and also included here are Beard's "Dead Elephant Interviews" from when he interviewed Bacon in 1972. (book via the gallery website) A.B.