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Quality beyond price at Ordovas gallery

THE art world was turned on its head as a commercial gallery in Savile Row opened a show where no picture was for sale. It just showed portraits by Francis Bacon and a single Rembrandt on the walls – equivalent to a perfect love child born of the Tate Modern and National Portrait Gallery.

Pilar Ordovas, the coolly academic and glamorous former Christie's modern art expert who has opened her own gallery, has set a new standard of museum-quality academic showmanship for London. The exhibition centres

around Bacon's favourite self-portrait by Rembrandt, which Bacon loved so much he had a reproduction of it in his chaotic studio and was photographed with it.

A brace of the late Lucian Freud's children and at least five of his models came to pay homage to the show of works by Bacon, who had been both a sitter and portraitist of Freud, who died aged 88 in July.

Despite the lack of pictures for sale the art world turned out to salute the "bravery" of Ordovas's opening show. Never mind the quantity, feel the quality was the mantra.