Room 7

Frank Auerbach b.1931

Reclining Nude in the Studio I

1963

Oil on board

Wilson Loan (2006)

Auerbach was seventeen when he enrolled at the Borough Polytechnic. He studied under the tutorship of David Bomberg and developed a lasting friendship with fellow artist Leon Kossoff. Although Auerbach makes preparatory drawings, he always paints the entire canvas anew in a single session, stating: ‘Even a beautifully painted section in not of the slightest use to me unless everything is interdependent and lives within the same flow’

Frank Auerbach b.1931

To the Studios

1977

Oil on board

Hussey Bequest, Chichester District Council (1985)

Auerbach has worked in Camden Town, in north London, throughout his career. In 1977 he started an extensive sequence of paintings depicting the area outside his studio. Here, space and form emerge from a dense lattice of lines, swirls, scribbles and patches of colour. The composition is invigorated by the tension between Auerbach's treatment of the surface as a material object and the image's illusion of three-dimensional depth.

R. B. Kitaj 1932 – 2007

An Untitled Romance

1961

Oil on canvas

Wilson Loan (2006)

Kitaj came up with the term School of London to to describe a group of London-based artists who were pursuing forms of figurative painting. The artists associated with this group, in addition to Kitaj himself, were Michael Andrews, Frank Auerbach, Francis Bacon, Lucian Freud, David Hockney (although living in the USA), Howard Hodgkin, and Leon Kossoff.

Elisabeth Frink 1930 – 1993

Maquette for Torso

1956

Bronze

Provided to Pallant House Gallery in accordance with the wishes of the artist’s late son, Lin Jammet (2020)

Frink is one of Britain’s leading 20th-century sculptors whose work shifts between figuration and abstraction. Her manipulation of the surface conveys emotion rather than objective reality and reflects her wider concerns with human vulnerability. Frink stated: ‘I have an ambition to be a good sculptor. I want to be able to give the idea, the crystallization, the satisfactory sculptural form without it being mere forms which look nice.’

Michael Andrew**s** 1928 – 1995

Study for ‘The Colony Room’

1962

Oil on board

Wilson Gift through Art Fund (2006)

Andrews was part of a social circle in London that included Frank Auerbach, Francis Bacon, and Lucian Freud, as well as friends from the Slade. During the early 1960s Andrews’ subject matter turned increasingly to the behaviour of people interacting in social groups. The celebrated Soho drinking club, The Colony Room, was a favourite haunt and is the subject of one of Andrews’s best-known paintings which is also in the Pallant House Gallery collection.

Lucian Freud 1922 – 2011

Portrait of a Girl

1949

Oil on copper

On Loan From a Private Collection (2017)

Freud’s meticulous interest in detail and the surface texture of his paintings reached a climax in the early fifties when he produced a handful of tiny oil paintings on copper. This intimate portrait of Anne Dunn is characterised by greater modelling in light and shade and hints at Freud’s fascination with the surface of the body.

John Craxton 1922 – 2009

Hare on a Table

1944 – 46

Oil on board

On Loan from the Estate of the Artist (1998)

In 1942, Craxton was offered a studio space at Abercorn Place, where he met and shared a studio with Lucian Freud. In the early 1940s Freud and Craxton worked closely together, sharing an enthusiasm for dead animals, which they often acquired from the local pet shop and subjected to close scrutiny and careful rendering.