

# BACON

Luigi Ficacci



TASCHEN

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BACON (I) #BASICART

Luigi Ficacci

BA

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## BACON (I) #BASICART

### Forms of feeling

#### The human body in distress

Largely self-taught as an artist, **Francis Bacon (1909–1992)** developed a unique ability to transform interior and unconscious impulses into figurative forms and intensely claustrophobic compositions.

Emerging into notoriety in the period following World War II, Bacon took the human body as his nominal subject, but a subject **ravaged, distorted, and dismembered** so as to writhe and wail with **intense emotional content**. With flailing limbs, hollow voids, and tumorous growths, his **gripping, often grotesque, portraits** are as much reflections on the trials and the traumas of the human condition as they are character studies. These haunting forms were also among the first in art history to depict **overtly homosexual themes**.

This book introduces Bacon's erotic, unsettling, unforgettable oeuvre, a transformative body of work often emulated, much analysed, and above all *felt*.

#### About the series:

Each book in TASCHEN's Basic Art series features:

- a detailed chronological summary of the life and oeuvre of the artist, covering his or her cultural and historical importance
- a concise biography
- approximately 100 illustrations with explanatory captions

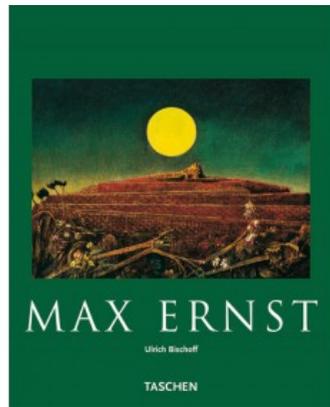
#### The author:

**Luigi Ficacci** studied art history in Rome under Giulio Carlo Argan. For many years, he was curator at the Istituto Nazionale per la Grafica in Rome and lectured at various Italian universities. From 2007 to 2015, he was Bologna's general museum director (Soprintendente ai Beni Culturali); today he is general museum director in Lucca. The focal points of his research work are the issues raised by 17th and 18th century and contemporary Italian and European art.

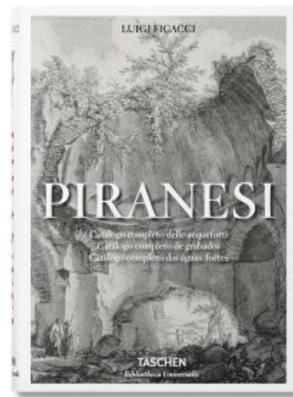
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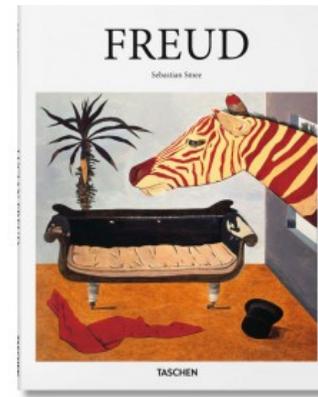
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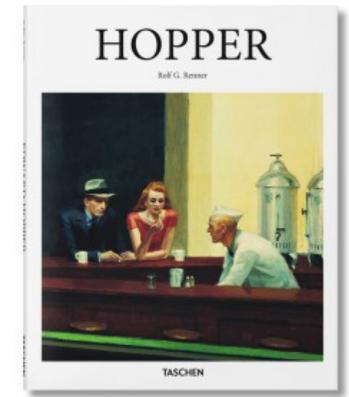
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