



BON ANNIVERSAIRE

Perhaps not since the retrospective at the Grand Palais has there been such a widespread (and well-deserved) surge of cultural focus on the life and work of this master. This past year, in honor of his birth, the Centenary Retrospective: Francis Bacon of 130 works has been shown first at The Tate in London, then the Prado in Madrid and finally at the Met in New York. The scope of the exhibition cannot be overstated, with major works displayed chronologically, brutally exploring themes of sex, faithlessness, death and, of course, torment. Running through early March at the Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane is a more intimate exhibition, Francis Bacon: A Terrible Beauty. Revealing and bespoke, the show includes large-scale works that haven't been on display in years, candid and staged photographs, and personal creative items from the master's studio. More than 7,000 items were donated to the gallery by Bacon's confidant and heir, John Edwards, and meticulously archived and exhibited by The Hugh Lane. Likewise, leading purveyor of fine art books, Taschen, has published *Bacon*, an account of the artist's life and creative dynasty. Contextualizing essays accompany the 100-plus images, with accounts on his personal life, creative approach and inspirations such that readers can truly start to understand the master and his works. Visit HughLane.ie and Taschen.com for more.