

William Feaver

William Feaver (b. 1942, Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire, England) lives and works between Northumberland and London. He read History at the University of Oxford and was awarded a postdoctoral research fellowship at Newcastle University.

Solo exhibitions include Berwick Watchtower Gallery, Berwick-upon-Tweed (2013); University Gallery, Northumbria University, Newcastle (2010); Piers Feetham Gallery, London (2005); and Queens Hall Arts Centre, Hexham (2004, 1998). He has participated in group exhibitions at the Mall Galleries, London (2018) and Cadogan Contemporary, London (1992), among others. He has written, broadcast and lectured extensively on art. He was chief art critic at The Observer (1975–98), having previously written for the Financial Times, The Listener, and Newcastle Journal. Publications include, most recently, a two-volume biography of Lucian Freud, *The Lives of Lucian Freud: Youth 1922–1968* (Bloomsbury, 2019) and *Fame 1968–2011* (Bloomsbury, 2020), besides the monographs *Frank Auerbach* (Rizzoli, 2009) and *Lucian Freud* (Rizzoli, 2007). Further works include *The Art of John Martin* (Oxford University Press, 1975) and *Pitmen Painters* (Chatto & Windus, 1988), his critical biography of the Ashington Group, which was dramatized for the stage by Lee Hall and toured internationally.

Curatorial projects include major exhibitions of Lucian Freud at Museo Correr, Venice (2005); Wallace Collection, London (2004); Fundació "la Caixa," Barcelona (2002); Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (2002); Tate Britain, London (2002); and Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kendal (1996). As well as retrospectives of Michael Andrews, Tate Britain (2001), the Ashington Group, Beijing and touring China (1980), and Ian Stephenson, Hayward Gallery, London (1977), he curated "Auerbach and Freud at the V&A: New Paintings," Victoria & Albert Museum, London (2006); "Constable: Le Choix de Lucian Freud," Grand Palais, Paris (2002); "Peter Moores," Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool (1983, 1985); and "Thirties: British Art and Design Before the War," Hayward Gallery (1979), among many others.

Teaching includes the Royal Drawing School, London and a visiting professorship at Nottingham Trent University. He is a founding Trustee of the Ashington Group.

Education

Sir James Knott Post-doctoral Research Fellow, Newcastle University, UK
Keble College, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK
Nottingham High School, Nottingham, UK
St Albans School, St Albans, UK

Professional Experience

2000–present Academic Board Member, Royal Drawing School, London, UK
1994–present Visiting Professor, Nottingham Trent University, Nottingham, UK
1989–present Founding Trustee, The Ashington Group (Pitmen Painters)
1998–1975 Chief Art Critic, The Observer, London, UK
1975–1974 Art Critic, Financial Times, London, UK
1975–1971 Art Critic, Newcastle Journal and The Listener, UK
1971–1965 Faculty Member, Royal Grammar School, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK
1965–1964 Educator, South Stanley Boys Modern School, Durham, UK

Select Exhibitions (Artist)

2026 Before the Mountain, YveYANG Gallery, New York, NY
2018 ING Discerning Eye, Mall Galleries, London, UK
2013 Berwick Watchtower Gallery, Northumberland, UK
2013, 2007 Queen's Hall Gallery, Hexham, Northumberland, UK

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2010 Northumbria Gallery, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK
2005 Piers Feetham Gallery, London, UK
1992 Cadogan Contemporary, London, UK

Selected Exhibitions (Curator)

2006 Freud and Auerbach, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK
2005–2002 Lucian Freud (retrospectives), including:
— Museo Correr, Venice, Italy (2005)
— Wallace Collection, London, UK (2004)
— Fundació “la Caixa”, Barcelona, Spain (2003–2002)
— Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, US (2003–2002)
— Tate Britain, London, UK (2002)
2003–2002 Lucian Freud on John Constable, Grand Palais, Paris, France
2001 Michael Andrews, Tate Britain, London, UK
1985, 1983 Peter Moores, Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, UK
1979 The Ashington Group, Beijing, China
1979 Thirties, Hayward Gallery, London, UK
1974 George Cruikshank, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK

Publications

2021 The Lives of Lucian Freud: Fame, 1968–2011, Bloomsbury
2019 The Lives of Lucian Freud: The Restless Years, 1922–1968, Bloomsbury
2009 Frank Auerbach, Rizzoli
2007 Lucian Freud, Rizzoli
1988 The Pitmen Painters, Chatto & Windus
1981 Masters of Caricature, Random House
1977 When We Were Young, Thames & Hudson
1975 The Art of John Martin, Oxford University Press

Awards & Honors

2019 Shortlisted, Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction (The Lives of Lucian Freud: The Restless Years, 1922–1968)
1983 Art Critic of the Year

Notable Works & Interviews

Collaborated with Jake Auerbach on films including Lucian Freud: Portraits (2004), Allen Jones: Women and Men (2007), and The Last Art Film (2012)
Inspired Lee Hall's play The Pitmen Painters (Live Theatre, Newcastle upon Tyne, 2007; Royal National Theatre, London, 2008–2009; Volkstheater, Vienna, 2009)
Conducted one of the first interviews with Lucian Freud: “The Artist out of his Cage”, Observer Review (1992) on the artist's 70th birthday; later re-published in the catalog for Freud's exhibition at Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt