

FIRST NIGHT | VISUAL ART

# Lucian Freud: New Perspectives review — damn him, he's brilliant

National Gallery, London, WC2

Laura Freeman

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12.01am, The Times



Bella and Esther

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★★★★☆

You've heard about a Freudian slip. How about a Freudian slalom? In this, the centenary year of Lucian Freud's birth, you can't move for Freud books and shows. *The Painter and His Family* at the Freud Museum, *Plant Portraits* at the Garden Museum, four selling exhibitions at the Gagosian, Lyndsey Ingram, Ordovas and Hazlitt Holland-Hibbert galleries.

Then there's *Love Lucian*, a collection of the artist's letters, and *Lucian Freud*, a massive Phaidon performance. The biggie is the National Gallery's autumn retrospective *Lucian Freud: New Perspectives*.