



# OBJECT OF DESIRE

Many critics consider Lucian Freud, whose depictions of nude subjects transformed the art of portraiture, one of the greatest painters of the 20th century. In the wake of Freud's death in July at the age of 88, owning one of his works—such as 1963's *Man's Head, Self Portrait*, seen here—has acquired new significance. "His paintings have been very valuable and very rare for many years," says New York-based art advisor and private dealer Karen Boyer. "Even before his death, they didn't get traded around a lot."



## WHY YOU NEED IT

Freud's paintings garnered huge prices while he was alive, including a record-breaking \$33.6 million for 1995's *Benefits Supervisor Sleeping*. His work will likely be even more valuable now.

## WHAT'S RARE

"There are things that go in and out of fashion, and artists whose markets have hit the top," says Boyer. "Freud is not an artist like that."

## HOW TO PURCHASE

One of the first major Freud paintings to hit the market post-death is 1952's *Boy's Head*, which will be headlining Sotheby's London Contemporary Art Evening Auction on October 13. The small oil-on-canvas is expected to fetch at least \$6 million. Two other avenues for acquiring his art: his dealer, Acquavella Galleries, or a private dealer. Contact: Acquavella Galleries, 212.734.6300, [acquavellagalleries.com](http://acquavellagalleries.com); Karen Boyer, *Elements in Play*, [karen@elementsinplay.com](mailto:karen@elementsinplay.com), 917.656.8141, [elementsinplay.com](http://elementsinplay.com); Sotheby's, 44.20.7293.5000, [sothebys.com](http://sothebys.com).