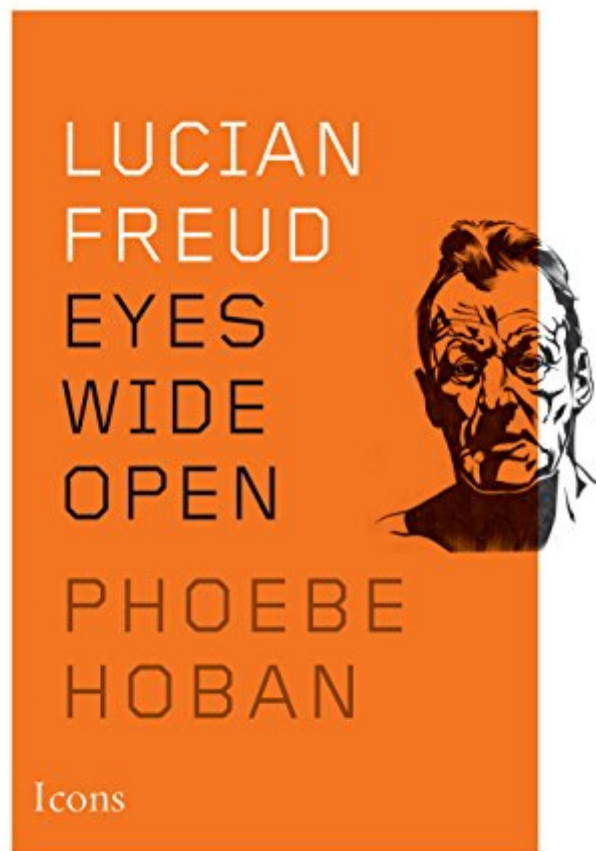




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# Lucian Freud: Eyes Wide Open (Icons)



## Synopsis

Phoebe Hoban, author of definitive biographies of Jean-Michel Basquiat and Alice Neel, now turns her attention to Lucian Freud, the grandson of Sigmund and one of the greatest painters England has produced. *Lucian Freud: Eyes Wide Open* is the first biography to assess Freud's work and life, showing how the two converge. In Hoban's dramatic and fast-paced narrative, we follow Freud from his birthplace in Berlin to London, where he fled with his family in the 1930s, and then to Paris, where he mixed with Picasso and Giacometti. He led a dissolute life in Soho after the war, gambling and womanizing with fierce energy. He painted his wives nude, his children nude, himself nude. He married twice, had an uncountable number of children, and kept working through it all, painting everyone from close friend and rival Francis Bacon to Kate Moss and Queen Elizabeth. He sometimes spent years on a single painting, which could require hundreds of hours of sittings. However various his subjects, his intent was always the same: to find and reveal the character hidden within by means of his intense visual imagination. Along with its startling biographical revelations, the great thrill of *Lucian Freud: Eyes Wide Open* is the way Hoban deconstructs the art itself—its influences, models, and technique—to show how Freud reproduced reality on the canvas while breaking down the illusion that what we see is real.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Hoban has written an insightful book into what may have made Lucian Freud the great painter he came to be. From his early days in Germany with his grandfather, Sigmund Freud, to his subsequent life in London, where his family moved before the war, we see Lucian Freud gradually developing from an intense adolescent who often resorted to physical violence in conflicts with others to the powerful figure who changed the face of Realism. His many liaisons with women are described in detail: Hoban offers us a candid sketch of who the most prominent women in his life were, his problems with commitment and other moral conundrums we are forced to consider in his character, such as his questionable demand on his lovers that they use no form of birth control, resulting in at least 14 children, most out of wedlock. Along with that, Freud's gambling addiction and his love of risk are explored by Hoban in a way that allows us a glimpse into Freud's psyche that is invaluable for anyone wanting to understand in a more in depth way the factors that might have contributed to his enormous talents and output.

This biography was okay but "The Man with the Blue Scarf" was much more informative and interesting. I was disappointed in this one.

I have been a fan of Lucian Freud and Francis Bacon since the 70's when an arts patron made it a mission to educate me. She had works by both and I was fascinated by them and spent many hours studying them. I thank her every day for the education she gave me. The book is so well written, I went through it in 2 hours the first time, I will reread it many times more.

I have looked at his paintings for years and never quite figured him out. The material in this book made many aspects of his work much clearer. If you don't have good color reproductions of his work then many of the points will go right by you.

Insightful and truthful exploration of a complicated man who became one of today's most important painters.

Gift for husband. He likes it.

Great start for someone who knows very little about his work or life, fascinating account of society at the time

This book reads like a senior undergraduate thesis with a multitude of quotes strung together from other authors. Facts are repeated often demonstrating weak editing. The cataloging of Freud's works, lovers, and children gets old quickly. For a subject which should easily create a fascinating work, the book is dry and boring.

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