

VAULT • RESEARCH

RESEARCH • COLLECTION MANAGEMENT • ADVISORY



An installation shot featuring Robert Hodgins' *'Two Gents and Francis Bacon'*

Notes:

In "Two Gents and Francis Bacon", the 'two gents' are Hodgins and his friend and fellow artist, Jan Neethling. On the right is a figure identified as British artist Francis Bacon, quoted by both Hodgins and Neethling as a primary influence on their respective painting output.

Hodgins, known for '[using] the accidents and mistakes you make in your work', adopted this approach after reading that Bacon believed in



The figure of Francis Bacon in the painting by Robert Hodgins.

'courting accidents and then learning to control them'.

Where Bacon's canvasses appear tortured, Hodgins effervescent colours embrace the canvas surface, imbuing the subject with Hodgins trademark wit.

The figure of Bacon is framed by a Bridget Riley-esque backdrop, a further nod to Hodgins humorous approach. Riley rose to prominence during the 1960's, when the British art scene was informed by "Bacon wielding his infamous brush towards scenes of despair and Richard Hamilton was asking, *Just what is it that makes today's homes so different, so appealing?*"¹. The parallel between Hodgins and Riley's approach to their art can be summed up in the manner in which paint, and the forms it describes, could merge in order to create pleasure for the viewer.



Bridget Riley
Elongated Triangles 5
Collection: Tate, London

¹ <https://www.wallpaper.com/art/bridget-riley-exhibition-hayward-gallery-london>

[accessed 02/02/2022]

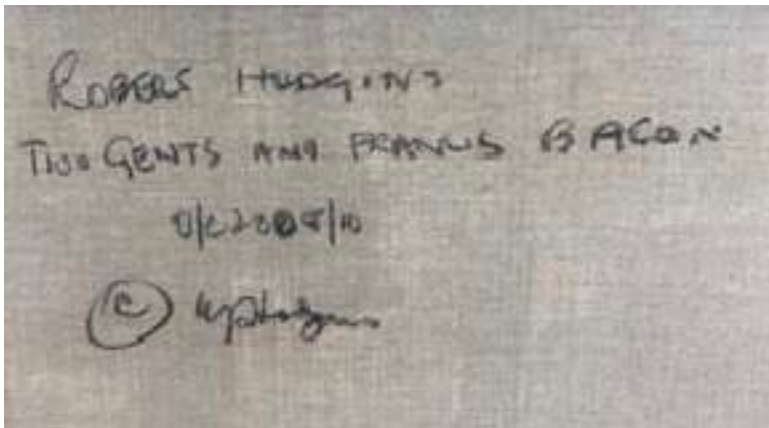
VAULT • RESEARCH

RESEARCH • COLLECTION MANAGEMENT • ADVISORY

Riley and Hodgins were both acutely aware in the power of paint and the potential to manipulate. Where Riley sought to lead the eye with her carefully plotted forms, Hodgins lead the eye through his canvases in his manipulation of the medium itself.

'Two Gents and Francis Bacon' was acquired directly from the artist by a friend and longtime collector.

Inscription on the reverse of the work.





Robert Hodgins

(British/South African 1920 - 2010)

TWO GENTS AND FRANCIS BACON

2008/10

signed, dated and inscribed with the artist's name, the title and the medium on the reverse

oil on canvas

90 by 120cm

* the yellow flowers on the bottom left are not part of the work.