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LEON KOSSOFF



Leon Kossoff, *Family Party, January 1983, 1983*
Oil on board, 66 x 98 1/4 in. (167.6 x 249.6 cm)

Frieze Los Angeles
February 17 - 20, 2022
Booth D8

At Frieze Los Angeles 2022, L.A. Louver will make a powerful presentation of important paintings and drawings by the artist Leon Kossoff. This will be a unique chance to experience works by one of Britain's most celebrated postwar artists, many of which have been hidden in prestigious private collections for decades. These significant works are returning to the market at a moment when the artist's oeuvre has come into celebratory focus via the publication of a catalogue raisonné and a traveling retrospective exhibition. Created over a lifetime of close observation and a career spanning over sixty years, Kossoff's thickly layered impasto captures the evolving landscape of his beloved London, as well as the changing visages of loyal friends, family and sitters. Towering construction sites, pedestrian streets and Underground stations are rendered as fondly as portraits of those near and dear to the artist. The retrospective exhibition *Leon Kossoff: A Life in Painting* will be on view at L.A. Louver's Venice Beach gallery during the run of the fair.

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February 2022

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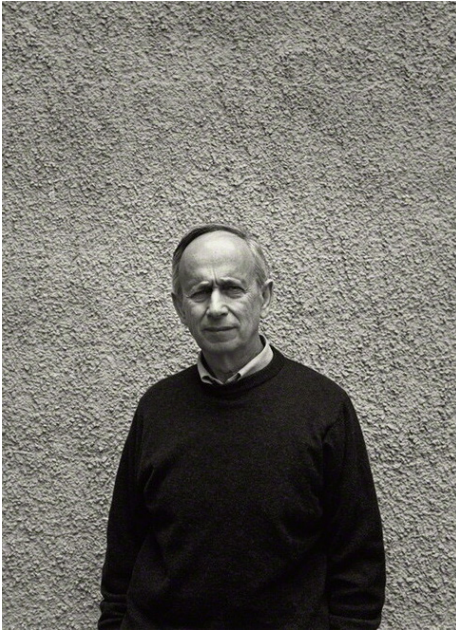
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The gallery's Frieze presentation will be anchored by the monumental painting *Family Party, January 1983*, which the art critic Peter Fuller called a "searing masterpiece" in the pages of the Sunday Telegraph when it was shown as part of the Saatchi Collection in 1989. The painting captures the Kossoff family at a birthday celebration for the artist's father: parents and siblings sit arrayed across two couches while children play on the floor, and the artist's wife stands at center, offering refreshments. The depicted gathering took place in 1962, at which time Kossoff made numerous sketches and studies; however, the final composition only came together after the passing of the family patriarch over two decades later. In classic Kossoff fashion, the paint both describes and envelops the figures, with details gradually revealing themselves to the intrepid observer.

Family Party, January 1983 will be joined in the booth by superior examples of Kossoff's favorite subjects, including bustling London tube stations, iconic city architecture and seated portraits of cherished confidantes. Also on view will be important drawings of subjects made after the Old Masters. Kossoff studied the masterpieces of past centuries religiously and fruitfully in the halls of the National Gallery, London throughout his career, repeatedly drawing their likeness in order to absorb their contours into his own hand.

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Leon Kossoff, 1996 (© Toby Glanville)

His classical landscapes and Biblical allegories transcribed from Poussin, Rubens, and Veronese capture the Old Masters' rigorous compositions with a kinetic, energetic sense of line that is wholly contemporary. Coinciding with Frieze is the opening of the exhibition *Poussin and the Dance* at The Getty Museum, which will feature many of the Poussin paintings that so inspired Kossoff. A special presentation of Kossoff paintings, drawings, and prints after Poussin will also be on view in L.A. Louver's second floor galleries, in the exhibition *Leon Kossoff: Transcriptions from Poussin* (26 January – 26 March 2022).

L.A. Louver has exhibited the work of Leon Kossoff since 1979 and has served as the artist's primary international gallery since 1981. Concurrent to Frieze Los Angeles, L.A. Louver presents *Leon Kossoff: A Life in Painting* at our Venice Beach gallery (26 January – 26 March 2022). Curated by Andrea Rose (former Director of Visual Arts, British Council), the exhibition, which was organized in collaboration with our colleagues Annely Juda Fine Art, London, and Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York, is a major touring retrospective of paintings made by the London artist from 1959-2015. This exhibition also celebrates the publication of the catalogue raisonné of Leon Kossoff's paintings, which has been a decade-long project led by Andrea Rose, Leon himself before he passed away in 2019, and now the Leon Kossoff Artistic Estate.

During Frieze Week, L.A. Louver's Venice Beach gallery will be open Tuesday - Saturday, 10am - 6pm, with special hours on Sunday, February 20, 11am - 3pm. Validated parking provided.

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