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FRANK BOWLING

Frank Bowling at The Arts Club, Vanity Fair, 13th January
2017

VANITY FAIR



Frank Bowling, *Pecking Pablo*, 1979.

The trajectory of Frank Bowling's career has been nothing short of extraordinary. Now in his early 80s, his was not the supersonic rise of the latest wunderkind; instead, it was a uniquely twentieth-century story of persistence and determination. Born in Guyana in 1934, he arrived in London aged 19, enrolling at the Royal College of Art. While his peers David Hockney and Allen Jones quickly found success, he struggled and often found himself pigeonholed against the expectation he would be creating post-colonial protest art. Leaving for America in 1966 garnered him some recognition, but he did not receive an exhibition in London until 1986. From there his climb was steady, if slow—he became the first living Black British artist to have work bought by the Tate in 1987, and was

the first black artist elected to the Royal Academy in 2005. With his work now finally reaching six-figure sums at auction and in the permanent collection of top institutions around the world, The Arts Club are hosting a solo exhibition of his work curated by Wedel Art. Spanning 50 years of his career, the show will include his famous Poured Paintings, which were the subject of his solo exhibition at the Tate Modern in 2013.

Frank Bowling at The Arts Club (January 15-April 23; by appointment only—Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10:00am-Midday), 40 Dover Street, Mayfair, London, W1S 4NP (020 7499 8581); @the_arts_club