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GAGOSIAN GALLERY



GALLERIES—UPTOWN

"ISABEL AND OTHER INTIMATE STRANGERS"

Hard-drinking, thrice-married, and legendarily beautiful, Isabel Rawsthorne was a twentieth-century muse whose conquests included Alberto Giacometti and Francis Bacon. Both artists loved Rawsthorne—Giacometti passionately, Bacon platonically—but their major affinity, seen in the portraits collected here, is the nervously charged gesture. Bacon's slashing, scalloped lines and throbbing pinks and purples play off Giacometti's attenuated bronzes, and the seventy-odd works, loaned from private and museum collections including MOMA's and the Met's, tell a tale of obsession. The sculptor's figure studies in oil are particularly powerful, at once wan and excruciating. Through Dec. 13. (Gagosian, 980 Madison Ave. 212-744-2313.)