



Frank Paul

Sheana Eccles appraises the work of this up and coming artist...

Frank Paul was born in London in 1984 and his parents are the very renowned artists Celia Paul and Lucien Freud. Frank knew he wanted to be an artist from an early age; he doodled in his exercise books at school like most of us, only Frank has never really stopped.

When I first encountered one of his drawings, it stopped me in my tracks and I knew that I wanted to own it. That feeling of being transported to another place is something you can readily experience, especially in Frank's work. His figures are very intimate, provocative, portraying people at their most revealing, depicting the fragility of the individual. They are also, on closer inspection, sinister and challenging; they draw you in, inviting you to make

up stories about them. Somewhere in there you feel you shouldn't be intruding, but you cannot resist. Frank's drawings also depict enigmatic figures traversing desolate environments. Both the people and the places seem familiar, yet are oddly out of place - refugees, pilgrims, and wanderers trying to get to somewhere that is forever out of reach. I think they are answering a call that is consciously understandable, but resonates somewhere inside us all. It draws us to a place forgotten that we once

knew about. They are compelling and revolting at the same time and yet they are captivating.

To meet Frank is to meet someone from an entirely different world, time and place to the one most of us inhabit. He is gentle, shy, almost gawkily uncomfortable in unfamiliar company but incredibly engaging. He has a steely determination to conquer this and is willing to put himself 'out there' to experience where this might lead. To discover that he and a fellow Cambridge University student performed their own material at the Edinburgh Festival last year comes as a complete shock. To discover that he is a non-smoking, non-drinking vegetarian is not. I suspect there are many more things to learn about this young man, but for now he remains an enigma.

So tell us about you. Background where you grew up that kind of thing. Education and influences as a child.

I was born in London in 1984, the child of two artists. Both of them were too busy painting to dedicate themselves fully to raising me (and I never remember being hurt by this) so I was brought up by my gran in Cambridge, which is where I went to school until I was thirteen. At that age I was sent to a boarding school in Canterbury which I intensely disliked. The school rules were extremely strict (boys and girls, for instance, were not allowed to go within six inches of each other and, rumour had it, a boy once got into trouble for catching a girl who had fainted) and the uniform comprised a black suit with pinstriped trousers and a starched clip-on collar which made us targets of mockery among the

