

FRANK BOWLING

Rachael Funnell, 5 Things I've Learned- Frank Bowling,
Artists & Illustrators, June 2019

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**THINGS I'VE
LEARNED:
FRANK
BOWLING**

The 85-year-old Royal Academician shares words of creative wisdom.
Interview: **RACHAEL FUNNELL**

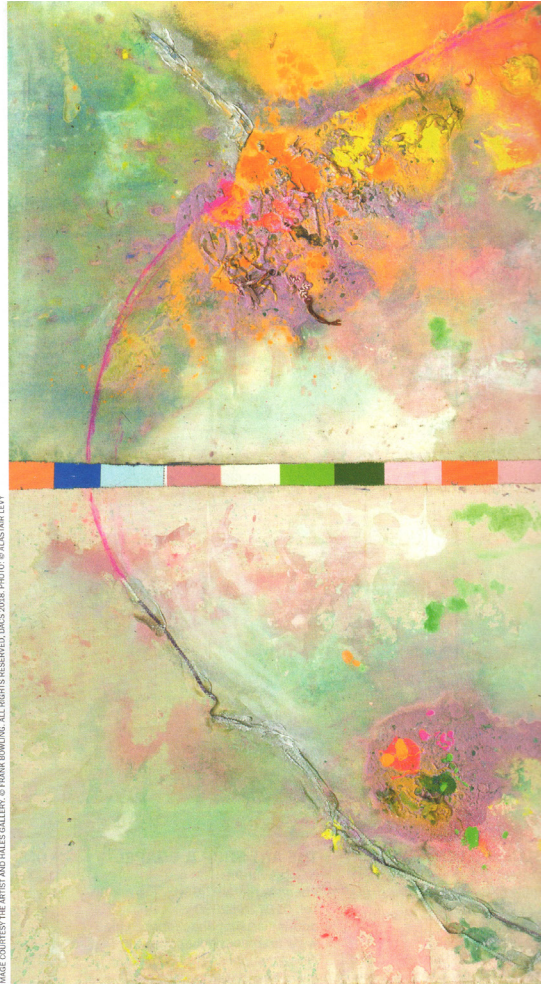


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ABOVE Frank in his studio
TOP RIGHT Iona Miriam's
*Christmas Visit To &
From Brighton*, acrylic
and plastic objects on
canvas, 189x122.5cm

1 TRY NEW THINGS
"I've always been interested in pushing paint to the extremes. When I was younger, I'd experiment to see what would work, what I could do with it. I worked with a chemist to create new configurations of paint."

2 FIND YOUR OWN SPACE
"I have a deep sympathy for younger artists working today, it's a difficult time to start as an artist. At points in my career I've been through the wringer, but I've never

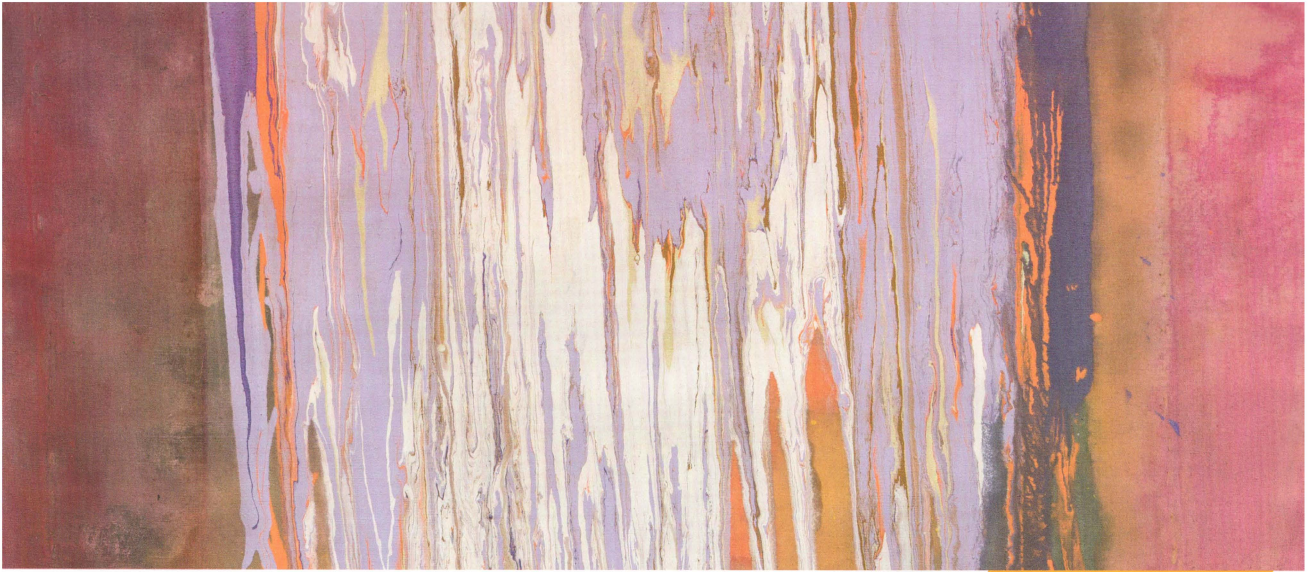
thought of giving up. Keep working, find a space where you can do your work and feel 'up'. I'm in my studio every day, it's where I'm happiest."

3 ALWAYS EXPERIMENT
"If there's something in the work that seems interesting to me, I poke and prod it to see what will happen. Sometimes it gets worse or I lose it but most of the time it moves in a way that surprises me and a new shape or drip that couldn't be made any other way jumps out of the work."

4 KEEP IT IN MIND
"I don't ever stop painting in my mind. When I am in bed, unable to sleep, I will imagine paint moving across the ceiling. I've been known

to get so anxious that I'll dash to my studio in the middle of the night. I see my work more as a diary and to keep a memory of what I was up to in that moment of time."

5 DON'T BE HELD BACK
"My art is very physical, but these days I can hardly walk. I get more nimble people to do the actual physical work for me and I give them strict guidelines. I feared my work would become inferior but now I feel the opposite. I can see more of what is happening and use these nimble people - my new 'painting tools' - to do more of what I want to get done."
Frank Bowling runs 31 May to 26 August at Tate Britain, London SW1.
www.tate.org.uk



May 2019

**Posy Simmonds:
A Retrospective**
24 May to 15 September
Explores the career of this
celebrated illustrator through her
most iconic characters.
House of Illustration, London
www.houseofillustration.org.uk

Lee Krasner: Living Colour
30 May to 1 September
Featuring artworks never before
exhibited in the UK, this show
uncovers the life of one of the
pioneers of Abstract Expressionism.
Barbican, London
www.barbican.org.uk

**Leonardo da Vinci:
A Life in Drawing**
24 May to 13 October
More than 200 drawings by the
Renaissance master are collected
together at Buckingham Palace.
Queen's Gallery, London
www.rct.uk

**Brought To Life: Eliot
Hodgkin Rediscovered**
23 May to 20 October
Subtle, beautifully painted still life
artworks abound by this underrated
20th-century artist.
Waddesdon Manor, Aylesbury
www.waddesdon.org.uk

Sponsored by



Frank Bowling
31 May to 26 August
Witness this artist's visionary approach
unfold throughout his 60-year career. The
visionary Royal Academician has a playful
relationship with paint that carries across
large-scale canvases throughout.
Tate Britain, London
www.tate.org.uk

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