



FRANKO B ARCHIVE

(FRANKO B)

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Franko B Archive

1996-2020

Name of Creator: Franko B (b 1960) artist

Extent: 5 boxes, digital materials and numerous oversize items.

Administrative/Biographical History: Born in Milan, Italy, 1960. Franko B moved to London in 1979 integrating into the anarcho-punk scene. He began performing in nightclubs, including the legendary fetish night FIST and, by way of his blood performances, was later responsible for bringing subversive body art into the leading art institutions including ICA, Tate Modern, and Arnolofini. A pioneering artist, Franko B uses his body as a tool to explore the themes of the personal, political, poetic, resistance, suffering and the reminder of our own mortality. Trawling the media everyday, his body of work responds to contemporary politics through the lens of the vulnerable individual. His practice spans curating, drawing, installation, performance and sculpture.

From 2009 to 2016 he taught sculpture at the Accademia di Belle Arti di Macerata in Italy. In 2017 he was appointed Professor of Sculpture at Accademia Albertina in Turin. He has also lectured extensively at art schools including Central Saint Martin's, London; New York University; the Ruskin School of Fine Art, Oxford; Chelsea College of Art, London; Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art, Dundee; DasArts, Amsterdam; Goldsmiths College of Art, London; Zurich University of the Arts; and the Courtauld Institute of Art, London.

His work has been the subject of four monographs: Franko B (Black Dog Publishing, London, 1998); Oh Lover Boy (Black Dog Publishing, London, 2000); Blinded by Love (Damiani Editore, Bologna, 2006) and I Still Love (Motta/Il Sole 24 Ore, Milan, 2010).

More information can be found at Franko B's website: www.franko-b.com.

Custodial History: Deposited with Bishopsgate Institute by Franko B, March 2022.

Scope and Content: Artwork - drawings, paintings, sculpture, needlework, photographs, prints, conceptual pieces - together with press cuttings, programmes, publications, books, posters, flyers, information sheets, exhibition catalogues and ephemera by or about the performance artist Franko B. Includes life-size reclaimed wooden confessional painted gold; images embroidered with red cotton on canvas; work done in neon; ceramic figures and other sculptural pieces; photographic prints; vials of blood; archive of photographic negatives covering all periods of Franko's work; extensive digital archive of video, film, photography, documents and other works [1996-2022]

System of Arrangement:

No further arrangement required.

Language/scripts of material:

English

Access conditions:

OPEN

Copying conditions:

Photocopying, scanning and digital photography (without flash) is permitted for research purposes on completion of the Library's Copyright Declaration form and with respect to current UK copyright law.

Finding Aids:

Copy of handlist available in researcher's area.

Rules and Conventions:

Compiled in compliance with General International Standard Archival Description, ISAD(G), second edition, 2000; National Council on Archives Rules for the Construction of Personal, Place and Corporate Names, 1997.

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Ephemera

Papers regarding the work of performance artist Franko B, [1996-2022]

Includes:

- press cutting, advert for Great Eastern Hotel with a colour photograph of Franko B's neon artwork, 'you make my heart go boom boom' above the reception desk
- programme for the South London Gallery featuring information on Franko B's live art piece, 'Still Life' (November 2004)
- programme for Chelsea Theatre's 'season of contemporary performance' entitled 'Sacred', which included Franko B's 'I'm Thinking of You (Version 2)' (Autumn 2009)
- programme and postcard for the group exhibition Katalogue Volume One at The Trafalgar Hotel, curated by Wilhelm Finger and featuring work by Franko B (October 2005)
- two large postcards/flyers, each with a different image, for 'Woof Woof I'm Back!! An exhibition of new works by Franko B', with accompanying list of artworks and prices; Mayors Parlour Gallery, Bow Road, London (February 2015)
- information sheet regarding Franko B's exhibition 'I Still Love' at the Nunnery, 181 Bow Road (May-June 2011)
- fold-out flyer/programme for 'I Still Love: An exhibition of recent visual art work by Franko B', Nunnery Gallery (06 May-05 June 2011)
- postcard/flyer for private view of Franko B's 'this is for you' and book launch of a new publication of Franko B's photographs entitled 'still life', luke & a gallery, 4 Pollen St, London (07-15 March 2003)
- hardback copy of the book 'Still Life' – text and photographs by Franko B (Black Dog Publishing, 2003)
- bag for life with image from the book of Franko B's photographs 'Still Life'
- flyer for SLG Live Art, Franko B in conversation with Sarah Wilson (21 November 2002)
- business card, 'Franko B' printed on one side (black and red on a white background) and contact details and the address at Toynbee Studios (white text on a red background)
- flyer for 'I Miss You' performance by Franko B, Beaconsfield Newport Street, London (14 April 2000)
- exhibition guide for 'Reading Franko B: Moments in Love', Theatre Collection and University of Bristol (14 March-12 April 2013)
- small card with a photograph of the back of Franko B's head and a website address
- small card/flyer for the performance 'Don't Leave Me This Way' by Franko B in collaboration with Kamal Ackarie; photo by Manuel Vason
- leaflet for a publication, limited edition artwork and series of presentations developed by Live Art Development Agency and Tate Modern, featuring work by Franko B (2004)
- fold-out flyer/programme for 'I Still Love: An exhibition of recent visual art work by Franko B', Nunnery Gallery (06 May-05 June 2011)
- postcard/flyer for 'How To Say It The Way It Is!', curated by and featuring Franko B alongside 17 other artists, at Rua Red Gallery, Dublin (07 October-02 December 2017)
- flyer for performance art pieces 'Discharge' curated by Martin O'Brien vs 'Untouchable' curated by Franko B, Mori+ Stein Gallery at Flying Dutchman, London (22 June 2014)
- postcard/flyer for 'Fierce' illustrated talk by Franko B, The Custard Factory, Birmingham (10 June 2004)
- information sheet for 'Gothic' featuring Franko B and 11 other artists, Fieldgate Gallery, London (23 February-16 March 2000)
- information sheet and large postcard for 'can you hear it?' curated by Franko B, featuring the work of 22 artists, the Nunnery, Bow Road (25 June-25 July 2010)
- information sheet for Deposizione e Posizione (Deposition and Position), Franko B and Zhang Huan, Galleria Pack, Milan (16 April-15 June 2008)
- flyer for 'poverty is not a crime!' at neon gallery, Commercial St, London (13 March-04 April 2003)
- typescript interview with Franko B (in Italian), produced by 40 Anni Positivi 1981-2021, regarding the AIDS pandemic (5pp; 31 October 2021)

- programme/booklet from 'Challenging Archives: an encounter with Franko B' by Mary Paterson and Maddy Costa, produced as part of the University of Bristol Theatre Collection/Wellcome-funded project to catalogue and conserve Franko B's archive
 - postcard with black-and-white photograph of Franko B, publicising the book 'Franko B' with texts by Lois Keiden and Stuart Morgan; photos by Nicholas Sinclair (Black Dog Publishing, 1998)
 - invitation to opening event for 'Live Culture: A programme of Live Art performances, presentations and debates at Tate Modern' (27-30 March 2003)
 - fold-out booklet (two copies) of *StyleArt: Moda e Arte si corteggiano da sempre* (12pp; in Italian)
 - CD, 'Fist First', featuring a compilation of music mixed live by E J Doubell from Club FIST (1997 Viceroy Records)
 - diary programme for Warwick Arts Centre (Spring 2003), which includes information about the world premiere of Franko B's 'new visual art installation', *Still Life*
 - postcard for the exhibition 'Shelf Life' at The Wellcome Trust, with an image of a detail from 'I Miss You' by Franko B
 - postcard for 'Gender and Performance: exhibition and Symposium at the RCA' featuring work by Franko B and others, Royal College of Art (22–25 February 2010)
 - flyer and A5-size sticker for 'FuckLove: Il Romanticismo Nel Tempo Del Nichilismo' with Franko B and Ciro Rispoli, Palazzo Saluzzo Paesana, Redroom Turin (14 March 2019)
 - postcard with colour photographs of Franko B in profile and front on; on the back is printed 'I feel nothing' and 'Franko B & Manuel Vason 2003'
 - postcard with black-and-white photo of Franko B on the front and 'Franko B. Love Letters' on the back (Sicilia Queer, Palazzo Sant'Elia, Palermo, 26 May–09 July 2017)
 - book for Sicilia Queer 2017 International New Visions Filmfest, 25 May–02 June, Palermo (7th edn; 275pp; in Italian and English)
 - postcard for 'Energia (Creativa) Alternativa', Accademia De Belle Art, Macerata, for courses in various visual arts taught by Franko B
 - ICA Bulletin, featuring among its listings of exhibitions, cinema, live arts and talks, a live art event by Franko B entitled 'I'm Not Your Babe' (13 May 1996)
 - programme for 'Ego: a series of four symposia' including one entitled 'The Agony and the Ecstasy' featuring Dr Seth Bhunnoo and Franko B, and nine typescript pages regarding the four symposia, (01 May 2001)
 - book, 'Love is a Wound: five ideas for public sculptures by Franko B' (52pp; 2022)
 - 'Lectio Magistralis', a 16-page booklet of words and images by Franko B (27 January 2019)
 - 'Corpus Domini', a guide to the exhibition of the same name featuring 37 artists including Franko B, Palazzo Reale, Milan (27 October 2021–30 January 2022)
 - seven loose photographs (five black-and-white, two colour) of Franko B in performance and other men; one contact sheet of black-and-white images of a man and woman and baby (n.d.)
 - 12 A5 postcards addressed with handwritten feedback/responses to Franko B's 'I'm Here' at Norwich Arts Centre and Arts Centre Colchester (October 2021); three blank and one handwritten feedback form for an unidentified Franko B exhibition
 - black cotton carrier bag with an image in outline (in red) of two men kissing; on the reverse is a red cross and the signature 'Franko b'
- [1 box]

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Prints

Boxed set of 10 colour prints (42cmx42cm each) from Franko B's exhibition at Galleria Pack, Milan (2008)

[1 box]

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Framed photograph

Framed black-and-white photograph (40cmx30cm); on the back in pencil are the words, 'Ali Zaidi (Pakistan) 80's. Collection of Franko B'

[1 item]

FRANKO/4

Photograph on laminated wood

Colour photograph on laminated wood (80cmx45cm); on the back in pencil are the words 'Photo by Thomas Qualmann, Ron Athey and Judy Tolentino, Los Angeles 2008'

[1 item]

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Posters

Posters for various Franko B exhibitions and performances, [2010-2021]

Includes:

1. poster (59cmx83cm) for 'Unloved', Rua Red Gallery, Dublin (19 October–13 December 2019) [3 copies]
 2. poster (30cmx42xcm) for 'Things That Make Me Cry', Globe Gallery, Newcastle (15 June–03 July 2021) [4 copies]
 3. poster (30cmx42xcm) for 'I'm Here', Globe Gallery Newcastle (02 July 2021); Swiss Church (09 September 2021); Arnolfini [Bristol] (02 October 2021) Norwich Arts Centre (21 October 2021); Colchester Arts Centre (10 November 2021); Decentraland Performance (date TBC 2021) [2 copies]
 4. poster (30cmx42xcm) for 'I'm Here', Urban Sciences Building, Newcastle University (02 July 2021) [4 copies]
 5. poster (30cmx42cm) for 'Things That Make Me Cry', Globe Gallery, Newcastle (15 June–10 July 2021)
 6. poster (42cmx60cm) for 'Things That Make Me Cry', Globe Gallery, Newcastle (15 June–10 July 2021) [3 copies: 2 of one design and the third of another; all designed by Jay Halim Studio]
 7. poster (67cmx96cm) for 'I Still Love' at PAC (Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea), Milan (09 October–28 November 2010) [3 copies]
- [20 items]

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Colour photographs and postcards regarding the work of artist Kris Canavan, [2011-2022]

Includes:

- flyer for Fuck/Live/Art: Franko B Birthday Bash, The Flying Dutchman, London (31 January 2016)
- colour photograph of Canavan's work 'Bum Boy' (2022)
- colour photograph of Canavan's work 'Rise' (2020)
- postcard image of Canavan's 'Variation 1' (2011)
- postcard image of Canavan's 'Bridge' (2011)

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Sculptural pieces by Franko B

Eight handmade ceramic pieces. Six of these are figures; four of which are from Franko B's 'Lost Boys' series; one is from his 'Sinful Children' series. Each of these five pieces has its own unique colour, shape and design, is stamped and/or signed on the back and includes hook for wall hanging. The other three pieces differ from these (see descriptions, below), [n.d.]

Includes:

- black glazed ceramic figure/wall hanging (23cmHighx11cmWx1.5cmD) from Franko B's 'Lost Boys' series
 - red glazed ceramic figure/wall hanging (25x10x1cm) from Franko B's 'Lost Boys' series
 - orange glazed ceramic figure/wall hanging (24x8x1cm) from Franko B's 'Lost Boys' series
 - blue/green glazed ceramic figure/wall hanging (24x11x1.5cm) from Franko B's 'Lost Boys' series
 - turquoise glazed ceramic figure/wall hanging (21x9x1cm) from Franko B's 'Sinful Children' series
 - black glazed phallic symbol on a rounded base (22x7x8cm), incised with indentations from bottom to top
 - reclining male nude figure worked in beige with spots of red (34x17cm)
 - swiss roll-shaped standing sculpture (28cm high) painted red with blue stripes and white splashes, the outer smooth section enclosing a more rough-hewn centre. Shapes have been cut into the top layer, which is also incised with stamps of crosses and 'gingerbread man'-shaped figures
- [3 boxes: 1-6 in one; male nude in another; Swiss roll in a third]

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Je Suis Merde neon sign

White MDF base with neon tubes spelling out Je Suis Merde, [2015]

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Confessional Booth

Gold-painted wooden confessional booth, 222cm high, 154cm wide, 70cm deep; interior 74cm wide x 65cm deep, with seat. Kneeling places and confessional window at either side. Curved door (56x67cm) at the front, over which hangs a burgundy velvet curtain (74x98cm). From Franko B's 'The Golden Age' series, [c.2008]

FRANKO/10

Suitcases

Six different suitcases, each with a central triangle in a different colour: grey check 'box' style suitcase with blue triangle; red leatherette suitcase with red triangle; dark grey with two central stripes and green triangle; brown briefcase-style suitcase with a black triangle; blue 'Samsonite'-style suitcase with pink plastic triangle; black briefcase with purple Perspex triangle. Also six MP3 players, one for each suitcase, and six memory sticks with digital files of recordings of individual voices. From Franko B's exhibition 'Unloved' held at Rua Red Gallery, Dublin, [18 October–13 December 2019]

FRANKO/11

Mirrors

Ten mirrors, approximately 60cm square each, each etched with a different word including 'hurt', 'again', 'fragile'. From Franko B's exhibition 'Unloved' held at Rua Red Gallery, Dublin, [18 October–13 December 2019]

FRANKO/12

Embroidered canvas

Off-white linen canvas (153cm square) embroidered in red cotton thread with an image of a nude male figure. Untitled. From Franko B's 'Stitches on Canvas' collection, [c.2015]

FRANKO/13

Embroidered canvas

Off-white linen canvas (147x170cm) embroidered in red cotton thread with an image of two blindfolded figures about to be hanged; two other figures behind them hold the nooses. Untitled. From Franko B's 'The Greatest Hits' series, [2015]

FRANKO/14

Blood-lettings

Nine small circular plastic containers containing cotton wool that has absorbed Franko B's blood, taken during his performances, [n.d.]