

# NEWS RELEASE



Tracey Emin  
*Dad*, 1994 from *Family Suite*  
© The artist. Courtesy Jay Jopling/White Cube (London)

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## TRACEY EMIN MONOPRINTS ACQUIRED WITH ART FUND HELP

Tracey Emin, b 1963  
*Family Suite*, 1994  
Suite of 20 monoprints  
Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art

The National Art Collections Fund (Art Fund), the UK's leading independent art charity, has given a £15,000 grant to the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art towards a rare collection of twenty monoprints by Tracey Emin, entitled *Family Suite*. The total cost of the series was £60,000.

*Family Suite* is Emin's only complete surviving series of monotype drawings. The series is quintessentially Emin, dealing with themes drawn directly from her own experiences – of sex, her family and her home town of Margate. With a delicate, almost nervous line Emin discloses personal and often harrowing events. However, rather than sentimentalising her work she approaches each subject – such as 'Sex in the Bathroom', 'Having Twins' and 'Night Death' – with characteristic frankness.

Most of Emin's monotypes are done in the evening or at night, sometimes with the lights out or to the sound of very loud dance music. By shutting out conscious thought Emin draws intuitively, and the result is a series of remarkably raw and immediate images. Monoprints are made by rolling a thick coat of printer's ink over a piece of glass, laying a sheet of paper on top, and drawing on the paper. The process does not allow for alteration or modification, and the accompanying smudges and blotches give Emin's work something of the directness of children's drawings.

*Family Suite* was created in 1994, four years after Emin's so-called 'emotional suicide' when she stopped painting and destroyed all the artworks she had ever done. The

monotypes are among the earliest and most deeply personal of Emin's works, and capture the artist just when she was emerging as a major force in British art.

**David Barrie, Director of the National Art Collections Fund said:**

'Tracey Emin's skills as a draughtsman are often overlooked, but *Family Suite* demonstrates her remarkable capacity for bringing people and events to life through her delicate and emotionally-charged drawings. The Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art is to be congratulated on this unique set of monoprints.'

**Richard Calvocoressi, Director of the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art said:**

'We are thrilled to have acquired at last a major work by Tracey Emin, whose art speaks very directly to young people'.

- Ends -

**For further information and images please contact Francesca Rivett-Carnac in the Art Fund press office on 020 7225 4837.**

**Notes to editors:**

- The Art Fund is the UK's leading independent art charity. It offers grants to help UK museums and galleries enrich their collections and campaigns widely on behalf of museums and their visitors
- It has 80,000 members. Since its foundation in 1903, The Art Fund has helped UK public collections acquire over 850,000 works of art, ranging from Bronze Age treasures to contemporary works of art
- In 2005 The Art Fund offered over £4.1 million to museums and galleries and distributed 12 gifts and bequests
- Independent of government, The Art Fund is uniquely placed to campaign on behalf of public collections across the UK. It was at the forefront of the campaign for free admission in 2002 and the campaign to save the Macclesfield Psalter in 2005
- This April The Art Fund will unveil one of the most significant projects in its history – a permanent 'Skyspace' at Yorkshire Sculpture Park by James Turrell
- The Art Fund is currently undertaking a groundbreaking survey of UK museum and gallery acquisitions, to build a comprehensive picture of collecting activity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. They will be published in May 2006
- Visit the charity's website at [www.artfund.org](http://www.artfund.org).