

[Emin at White Cube Gallery](#)
[Emin at the Tate](#)
[Emin at Galleria Lorcan O'Neill Roma](#)

Tracey Emin (British, b. 1963)

Watch [a 1990s interview](#) with Emin at a Young British Artists exhibition from the Kinolibrary Archive Film Collections.

[My Major Retrospective 1963-1993](#) at White Cube Gallery included over 100 objects Emin collected over the years, including teenage diaries, souvenirs, toys, memorabilia, paintings, drawings, and photographs.

Emin was included in Charles Saatchi's [controversial](#) exhibition [Sensation](#) in 1997. The artist exhibited *Everyone I have Ever Slept With 1963-1995*, which was tragically destroyed in a 2004 fire at Saatchi's east London warehouse. Emin called the fire "[the great British Art disaster](#)."

Nominated for a [Turner Prize](#) in 1999, Emin exhibited her famous installation [My Bed](#) for the first time at the Tate. [Watch an interview](#) with the artist about the artwork when it was reinstalled in 2015.

In 1999, Lehmann Maupin Gallery in New York hosted Emin's first solo exhibition in the United States. Read a review of *Tracey Emin - - Part of Me's Bleeding* in the [New York Times archives](#).

The British Pavilion for the [Venice Biennale](#) selected Emin, the second woman ever, for its 52nd edition in 2007. [Tour the exhibition in a video](#).



Emin in her east London studio, 2017
Photograph: DACS/Artimage



Emin in front of *My Bed* (1998), 2014
Photograph: Rob Stothard

A 2008 exhibition entitled *Tracey Emin: 20 Years* at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art was Emin's first major retrospective. [Read a review](#) and click through [an image gallery](#).

In 2011, Emin was [appointed Professor of Drawing](#) at the Royal Academy of Art, one of the first two female professors since the Academy's founding in 1768. That same year, an exhibition at London's Hayward Gallery controversially included a parental guidance [warning](#) and required anyone under 16 to be accompanied by an adult.

Watch a [Tate Talks video](#) between the artist and art critic Johnathan Jones and a [long interview](#) with Kenny Schachter about the 2020 exhibition *Detail of Love* at Xavier Hufkens, Brussels.

[The Loneliness of the Soul](#) (2020) featured Emin's work alongside paintings by Norwegian modern artist Edvard Munch (1863-1944). [Take a virtual tour](#) of the exhibition and read a review in [The Art Newspaper](#).

Emin was diagnosed with bladder cancer in 2020, but [her prognosis didn't stop her artmaking](#). After multiple major surgeries in 2021, [she is cancer free](#).



Tracey Emin (British, b. 1963)

We do not Sleep, 2024

Acrylic on canvas

Private Collection; L2025:71.1

“Women who have children, they don’t sleep – they’re awake the whole time. Every woman who’s a mother has to do that. It’s like torture... then they have to look good too.” – Tracey Emin

English artist Tracey Emin survived a traumatic childhood, which often informs her autobiographical and confessional work. As one of the Young British Artists rising in the late 1980s, Emin became known for her unflinching approach to sex, trauma, grief, and pain. In 2021, the artist founded TKE Studios with a residency program and affordable studio space for artists in her hometown of Margate, Kent. **We do not Sleep** was painted for an exhibition mounted at TKE Studios featuring women artists exploring the idea of sleep. Emin has been an insomniac for most of her life, and her sleeplessness has intensified after her recent battles with bladder cancer.

On view September 24, 2025 – January 4, 2026



Tracey Emin (British, b. 1963)

Tide Line, 2019

Acrylic on canvas

Private Collection; L2021:122.1

On view January 5 – April 10, 2022

Extra Resources

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