

Head of Julia III

By Frank Auerbach, born in 1931

Charcoal and chalk, 1985



© Courtesy of the artist and Marlborough Gallery, New York and London

Auerbach's work deliberately subverts the traditional idea of portraiture. He resists giving an exact likeness of the sitter, his wife Julia. Instead, her prominent cheekbones and hairstyle are expressed through broad strokes of charcoal and chalk.

Born in Germany, Auerbach was sent to England by his parents in 1939 to escape Nazi persecution. He never saw his family again and has been a British citizen since 1947.

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