

TWO MEN ON A BED

sounded erotic : affix homo
and you qualify desire not bodies : but suggested

a plot a scene and that word history : so let me
invert sequence and dispense three facts : Francis

Bacon's 1953 composition echoed an 1887 photo
by Eadweard Muybridge : and I write, type this

rather : in early 2003 : one hundred thirty four years
since homosexuality came to be : forget history :

its language bores me : let's trace memory : first
time I was one of two men on a bed : July 1997 :

want details : our bodies blurred where they met
in shadow : the spine's arc of light slight swell

of dimpled glut inner line of thigh the calf's tight
half : who's on top : well that depends at which

point you enter how the body bends and how you
decide to plot bodies and bed if you feel anchored

by a room's rectangle or a sphere's gravity : side
to side cheek on cheek elbow hooked under knee

the crossed leg pointed foot : should I pull these
shapes out of focus mute the palette : would you

rather words like mount slime teeth bared-
like-an-animal : I draw lines : two diagonals one

horizontal two verticals : and create three walls
and a ceiling : but must I say perspective recedes

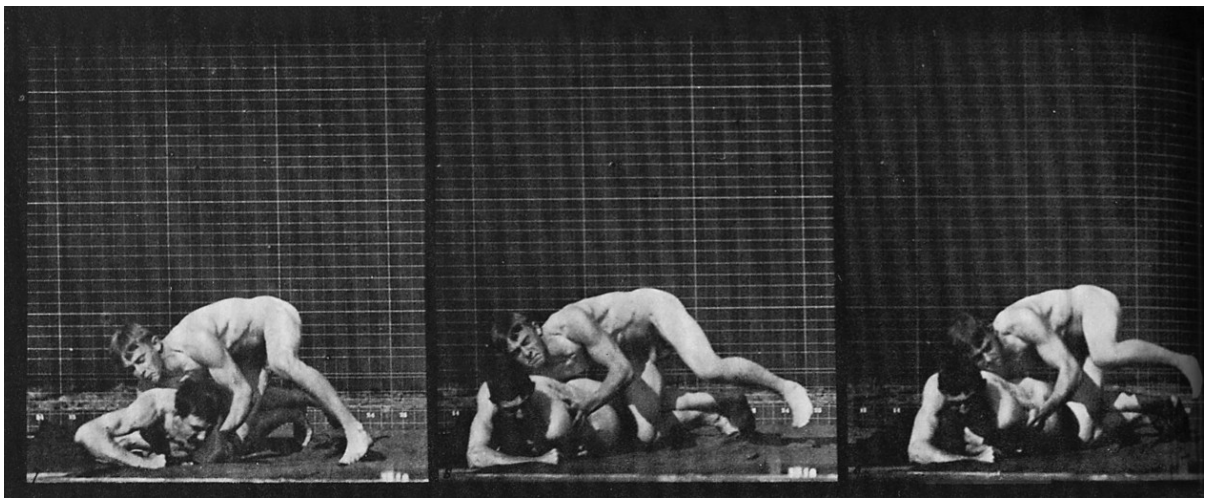
scene weighed down by a white double bed as it
cuts across a black foreground : if I describe two

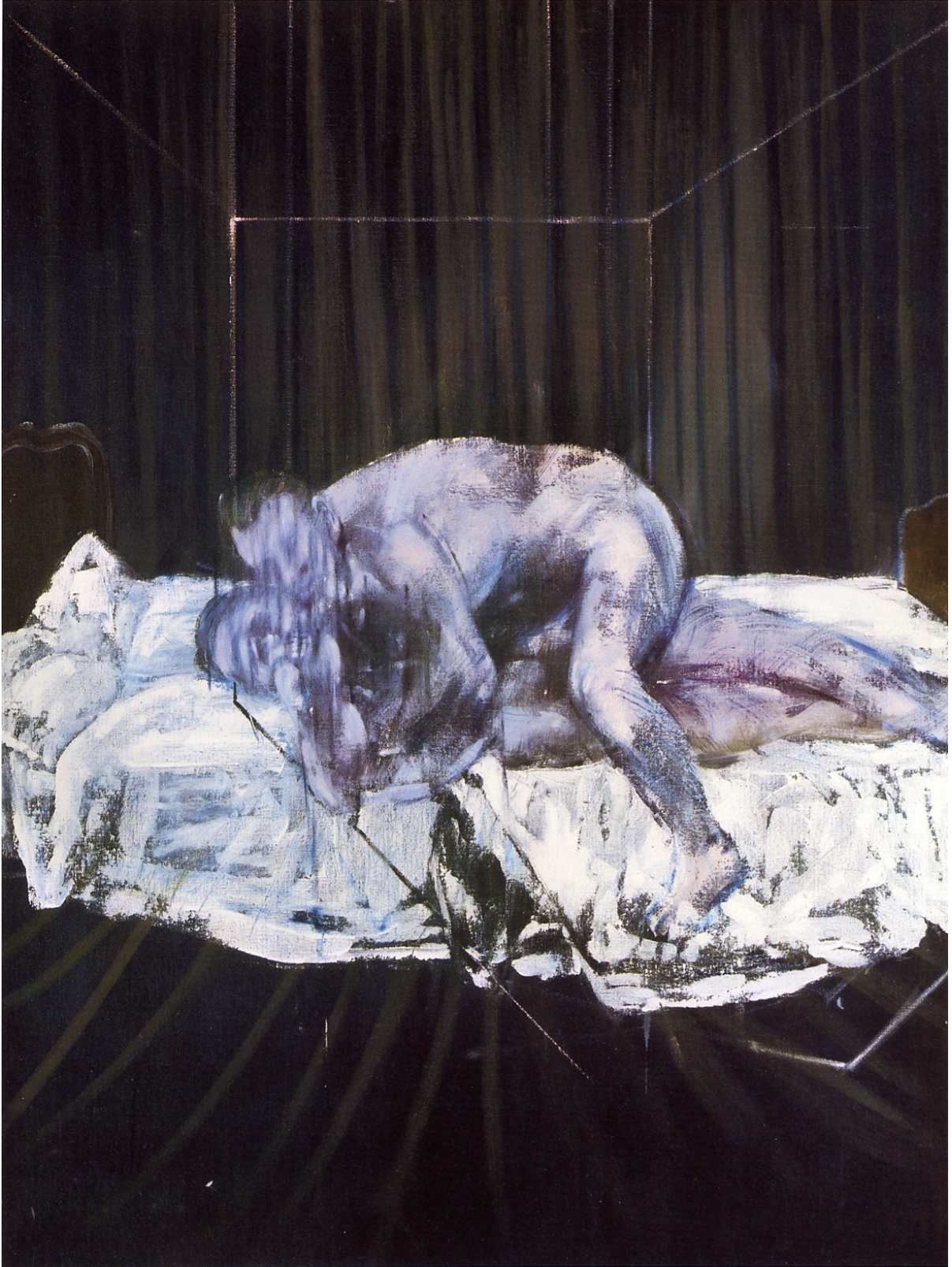
bodies as ashen pasty ghostly must I also urge
words like sinister wail and should I pursue

bars or can I exit through streaks that rise fall
fold and splay like a thin but shimmering veil

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Eadweard Muybridge's 1887 photograph *Two Men Wrestling*.





Francis Bacon's 1953 oil *Two Figures*.