

Press Release

Louise Bourgeois. Drawing Intimacy 1939 - 2010

Hauser & Wirth Somerset

1 October 2022 – 2 January 2023

Opening reception: Saturday 1 October 2022



Louise Bourgeois is one of the most important and influential artists of the 20th Century. 'Drawing Intimacy 1939 – 2010' shares with the viewer an extraordinary grouping of works from the artist's private collection. Exhibited publicly for the first time, the paintings, sculptures and works on paper reflect Bourgeois's multiplicity of mind and material. Her exploration of self lives within the dreamscape of touch and expression shared in this exhibition. Embodiment as transient sublimation.

'Louise Bourgeois. Drawing Intimacy 1939 - 2010' forms a collection of highly personal memories and ideas that in turn reflect the complexity and intimacy of Bourgeois's practice. The works presented span the breadth of the artist's oeuvre, from a selection of plaster sculptures to previously unseen paintings, drawings and works on paper. Most of the works on paper were made during the last four years of Bourgeois's life, and often feature words or phrases which evoke associations and memories. The interaction of image and text crystallizes the interplay of past and present.

The exhibition is curated by Benjamin Shiff, who played a major role in the re-emergence of printmaking in Louise Bourgeois's practice in the late 1980s, and who remained an important force in her creative use of the medium up until her last years. Unfolding across two galleries in Somerset, 'Drawing Intimacy 1939 – 2010' highlights the sensitivity and strength of Bourgeois's artistic vision: 'It is not an image I am seeking. It is not an idea. It is an emotion you want to recreate, an emotion of wanting, of giving, and of destroying.'

This autumn, 'Louise Bourgeois. Paintings' travelled from The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York to the New Orleans Museum of Art, showing from 9 September 2022 – 1 January 2023. 'The Woven Child', previously on view at The Hayward Gallery, London, runs at the Gropius Bau, Berlin from 22 July – 23 October 2022.

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This exhibition at Hauser & Wirth Somerset runs alongside 'Fabian Peake. an eye either side' at Hauser & Wirth Somerset until 2 January 2023. An extensive event and learning programme will accompany both exhibitions throughout the autumn and winter. Visit hauserwirth.com for further details.

About the artist

Born in France in 1911, and working in America from 1938 until her death in 2010, Louise Bourgeois is recognized as one of the most important and influential artists of the 20th Century. For over seven decades, Bourgeois's creative process was fuelled by an introspective reality, often rooted in cathartic re-visitations of early childhood trauma and frank examinations of female sexuality. Articulated by recurrent motifs (including body parts, houses and spiders), personal symbolism and psychological release, the conceptual and stylistic complexity of Bourgeois's oeuvre - employing a variety of genres, media and materials - plays upon the powers of association, memory, fantasy and fear.



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Gallery hours:
Tuesday – Sunday
10 am – 5 pm (Oct)
10 am – 4 pm (Nov - Jan)

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Louise Bourgeois
Orbits and Gravity
2009
Etching, watercolor, ink and pencil on paper
14 x 24.1 cm / 5 ½ x 9 ½ in
Photo: Peter Butler

Louise Bourgeois
Germinal
1967-1988
Plaster
10.8 x 15.9 x 14.6 cm / 4 ¼ x 6 ¼ x 5 ¾ in
Photo: Christopher Burke

Louise Bourgeois
Nature Study
2007
Etching, watercolor, gouache and ink on paper
26 x 39.7 cm
10.25 x 15.63 in
Photo: Peter Butler



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