



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Louise Bourgeois Prints at Leeds College of Art

Autobiographical Series and 11 Drypoints: 20 November - 17 December 2015
A Hayward Touring exhibition from Southbank Centre

Hayward Touring's latest print exhibition features two collections of works by one of the most influential artists of recent decades, Louise Bourgeois (1911-2010). Best known for her powerful emotionally charged sculptures - enclosed 'cell' or cage-like installations and fabric figures - she was also a prolific printmaker and draughtswoman. Most of the French-American artist's work dealt with strongly autobiographical themes, invoking her childhood emotions of loneliness, desire, anxiety and jealousy.

Autobiographical Series (1994) consists of 14 etchings illustrating some of her deepest thoughts and memories whilst the 11 Drypoints (all from 1999) brings her obsessions into more vivid focus. Recurrent themes, such as a woman giving birth, a cat, ladders, long hair, feet, clocks, scissors, bathtubs and a pregnant mosquito all contain references to her emotional biography. An apt example of this is the memory of her mother sewing - her family ran a workshop restoring tapestries in Paris - evoked in 'Sewing', in the *Autobiographical Series*.

Louise Bourgeois began making prints in the 1930s and briefly ran a print shop in Paris before she emigrated to New York in 1938. She lived in Manhattan for the rest of her life. There she worked at S.W. Hayter's print workshop and later bought a press so that she could work from home while raising her three children. Following her husband's death in 1973, she taught printmaking at the School of Visual Arts.

Printmaking gave Bourgeois the ability to make changes over the course of an edition, experimenting with layers of transparency and the possibilities of retaining elements of her original drawings whilst amending others - something that she felt was not available to her in painting or sculpture. She said of printmaking that 'the whole history of the creative process is there'. After many years of focusing primarily on sculpture, Bourgeois turned back to printmaking in the 1980s and continued to produce prints until her death in 2010. The two collections of works in this exhibition were made when she was in her eighties, after installing a small press in her own home.

Since she was honoured with a retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, in 1982, Louise Bourgeois has been widely acclaimed as one of the most original artists of the late twentieth century and has exhibited at museums throughout the world, including at Tate Modern in 2007.

Editor's Notes

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[More info about the exhibition here](#)

The exhibition will run from 20 November - 17 December at Leeds College of Art's Blenheim Walk Gallery, Leeds, LS2 9AQ.

www.leeds-art.ac.uk

Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre, occupying a 21-acre site that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. Southbank Centre is home to the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and the Hayward Gallery as well as The Saison Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection.

Hayward Touring produces exhibitions that tour to galleries, museums and other publicly-funded venues throughout Britain. Hayward Touring collaborates with artists, independent curators and partner institutions on imaginative exhibitions that are seen by over 750,000 people in around fifty cities and towns each year. Acting as a laboratory of ideas and nurturing new curatorial approaches, Hayward Touring's exhibitions feature a thought-provoking mix of subjects and artists, intended to engage a wide audience. Exhibitions range in scale from the British Art Show - the largest and most ambitious survey of recent British art, organised in different cities around the country every five years - to international group exhibitions produced with guest curators, artists and writers. The programme also extends to smaller monographic print and photography exhibitions, touring to a variety of venues including galleries, libraries, schools, universities and arts centres.

Hayward Touring exhibitions currently on the road include the third Curatorial Open exhibition, *Listening*, curated by Sam Belinfante at BALTIC's project space at B39, Newcastle-upon-Tyne and *Art from Elsewhere: International Contemporary Art from UK Galleries* at Gallery of Modern Art (GoMA), Glasgow. British Art Show 8 opens at Leeds Art Gallery in October 2015, and tours to Edinburgh, Norwich and Southampton.