

## Louise Bourgeois: Making and Re-Making

"Art is a guaranty of sanity"

Louise Bourgeois' intense psychological insight and the way she transforms it into art can be seen at the Tate Modern in London. The exhibition showcases mostly Bourgeois' later work, although it incorporates some older pieces as well. Curated by Ann Coxon and Jerry Gorovoy, the exhibit features large-scale sculptures and installations made of various materials, such as fabric, cloth, bronze and marble.

The French-American artist, born on December 25, 1911, often addressed universal topics such as love, motherhood, loss, feminism and fear in her work. Her sculptures and paintings allow us to see Louise in a complex and personal light, making it possible to connect to the art in a way that is more intimate than usual. A lot of her work is also inspired by her parents, older pieces often influenced by her father and the ones produced later in life paying tribute to her mother.

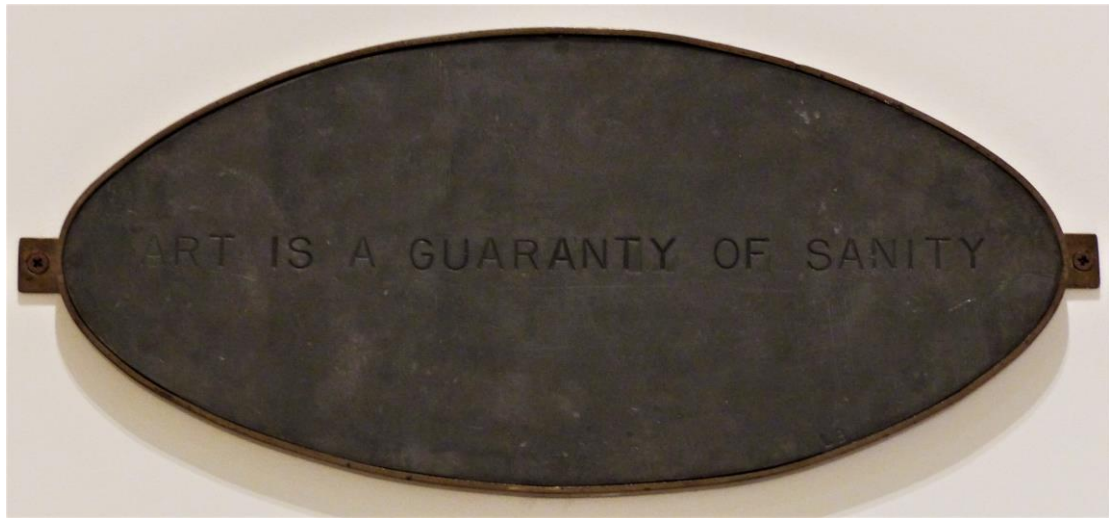
Her work is raw, the colors in her paintings are bright and intense. Sculptures made of cloth and fabric are suspended from the ceiling, creating an atmosphere on the brink of surreality.

I think the ability to relate to Bourgeois' work depends partly on the willingness of the viewer, being able to step into the space with an open mind. Although the exhibition is deeply impressive if you are willing to observe and understand, it might also come across as simple or even unsettling to some. Bourgeois' art isn't light or faint or even soft, rather it reveals itself to be far more gut-wrenching and heavy than expected.

The exhibition also displays some of Bourgeois' writing, which feels blatantly honest and gives us an insight into the artist's mind, even if only on a miniscule scale. Louise Bourgeois made art because she had to, because it was her way of dealing with the stories that shaped her life. Turning her anxiety into art is a task she mastered and it is clearly visible.

Bourgeois created art in order to transform her fear and her emotions into something tangible. She shaped and re-shaped and dissembled and ripped apart and re-built.

Personally, Bourgeois' work fascinates me. As someone who has struggled with panic and anxiety for years, seeing it turned into art really moves me. In my eye her art has shifted from solely portraying a subject matter, to representing an entire process and way of dealing with what we experience. Maybe that's exactly why I felt a little dizzy after leaving this exhibition.



*Art Is A Guaranty Of Sanity (1999) - wall relief, lead, steel*



*Cell XIV (2000) - steel, glass, wood, metal, red fabric*



*Spider I (1995) - bronze, dark and polished patina, wall piece*