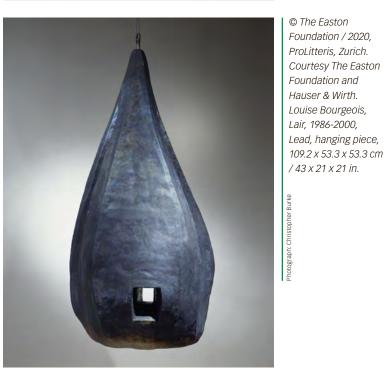
LOUISE BOURGEOIS EXHIBITION AT TARMAK22

This winter season Hauser & Wirth, an international gallery devoted to contemporary and modern art, is bringing the work of one of the most celebrated artists of the 20th century to the Saanenland: Louise Bourgeois. Available to experience at Tarmak22 in Gstaad as well as online, this exhibition of Bourgeois' work is titled The Heart Has Its Reasons.





ProLitteris, Zurich. Courtesy The Easton Foundation and Hauser & Wirth. Louise Bourgeois, The Couple, 2007-2009, Cast and polished aluminum, hanging piece, 154.9 x 76.2 x 66 cm / 61 x 30 x 26 in.

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ouise Bourgeois was a French-American artist. Best known for her large-scale sculpture and installation art, Bourgeois was also a prolific painter and printmaker across a career that spanned seven decades.

Born in Paris in 1911, Bourgeois was a talented student who began drawing at the age of eleven. Her parents ran a tapestry restoration business and she would help out in the workshop by drawing any missing elements in scenes on the tapestries.

Bourgeois went on to study mathematics and philosophy at the Sorbonne, where she wrote her thesis on Blaise Pascal, a 17th century philosopher, before turning to art. It is noteworthy that the exhibition at Tarmak22 takes its title from one of Pascal's most famous quotations: "The heart has its reasons of which reason knows nothing."

In 1938 Bourgeois moved to New York with her husband, where she continued to work until her death in 2010 at the grand age of 98. She completed her final pieces just a week beforehand.

The human experience

The exhibition at Tarmak22 spans Bourgeois' work from 1949 – 2009. On display are watercolours, bronzes and etchings as well as sculptures in aluminium, lead and stainless steel.

The collection probes the complexities of the human experience, reflecting Bourgeois' belief that there is something in our emotional and psychological experience that eludes rational explanation.

Throughout her career, Bourgeois explored the themes of loneliness, jealousy, anger and fear across the realms of domesticity, family, sexuality, the body, as well as death and the unconscious. A factor that unifies the pieces is the interplay between binary opposites – mind and body, geometric and organic, male and female, conscious and unconscious - that animate Bourgeois' work as a whole. Above all, this exhibition speaks about Bourgeois' need for love, the 'polar star' she could not live without.Hauser & Wirth is especially delighted to bring a selection of landmark sculptures to Gstaad such as 'Eyes' (2001), 'Couple' (2007 – 2009) and 'Untitled No. 7' (1993). It is not difficult to see why. There is something dazzling about the variety and scale of the pieces on display, an impression further enhanced by the exhibition space. Offering extensive views over Gstaad and the Alps, the location serves as a wintry canvas on which to experience these incredible pieces.

Louise Bourgeois in her home on 20th Street in NYC in 2000.

Bourgeois' influence

Bourgeois was a highly-respected artist, earning a dazzling reputation over the many years she was active. But how, we asked James Koch, partner and executive director at Hauser & Wirth, would he summarise Louise Bourgeois' work and influence to someone who knows little of the art world?

figure in the history of modern sculp- Her distinctive style never belonged such as her large-scale spider works titled Maman, and has exhibited in is unparalleled." institutions across the world including a retrospective at the MoMA in 1987, her representation of the United States at the 45th Venice Biennale in 1993 and her Turbine Hall commission at the Tate Modern in 2007. visitors how Bourgeois' work evolved Her remarkable works, often exploring female sexuality, childhood trauma and her own introspective reality, pack a real emotional punch. Yet this intensely personal language also translates universally, which is cal statement 'the heart has its reawhy I think people will always be drawn to her art."She employed a will resonate with visitors. Bourvariety of genres, media and materials over her seven-decade career, a world of emotion, which she often and played upon the powers of as- felt, could not be put into words or



20th-century art. Her individuality to the foreground."

"Louise Bourgeois is a towering sociation, memory, fantasy, and fear. understood through rational reason, speaks to this incredible yet difficult ture. She is most widely known for to one artistic movement, despite year, where the complexities of huher incredible outdoor sculptures, working within the microcosm of man experience have been brought

ANNA CHARLES

Expectations and impressions

There are many reasons to make time to visit the exhibition. Spanning a 60-year period, it demonstrates to over time. But what impressions does Koch hope visitors will take with them when they leave?

"I hope that the theme of the exhibition, inspired by the Blaise Passons of which reason knows nothing' geois' ability to tune into and express

The Louise Bourgeois exhibition runs from 19 December – 3 March at Tarmak22, Gstaad Saanen Airport. In accordance with recent government guidance, Tarmak22 also had to close its doors. They are planning to open by appointment. Contact: gstaad@hauserwirth.com or +41 79 362 0927.

Hauser & Wirth has also organised an online version of the exhibition on its website, giving art fans a means to enjoy this collection wherever they may be: www.hauserwirth.com