

45th Venice Biennale 1993

LOUISE BOURGOIS

The United States Pavilion

RECENT WORK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AN EXHIBITION OF RECENT WORKS BY LOUISE BOURGOIS
TO REPRESENT THE UNITED STATES AT THE VENICE BIENNALE
ON VIEW JUNE 13-OCTOBER 10, 1993

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PRESS VERNISSAGE JUNE 9-11

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PRESS BRIEFING THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 11 A.M.-12:30 P.M.

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CHARLOTTA KOTIK OF THE BROOKLYN MUSEUM SERVES AS U.S.COMMISSIONER

Louise Bourgeois: Recent Work, an exhibition of 9 sculptures and 4 installations completed by the artist between 1984 and 1993, has been selected to represent the United States at the 45th Venice Biennale. Four of the works have been created in Ms. Bourgeois's Brooklyn studio over the course of the past several months specifically for the Biennale where they will be seen publicly for the first time.

The exhibition was selected in a competitive process jointly administered by the National Endowment for the Arts and the United States Information Agency, based on a proposal by Charlotta Kotik of The Brooklyn Museum, who will serve as United States Commissioner at the Biennale. Ms. Kotik, Chair of the Department of Painting and Sculpture and Curator of Contemporary Art at the Museum, has organized

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The exhibition is a project of the Fund for U. S. Artists at International Festivals and Exhibitions, a public/private partnership of the National Endowment for the Arts, the United States Information Agency, The Rockefeller Foundation, and The Pew Charitable Trusts.

- Philip Morris Companies Inc. is the corporate sponsor of the United States Pavilion and also of the touring exhibition. •

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the Biennale exhibition, which will be expanded into a major traveling show on view at The Brooklyn Museum April 22 through September 4, 1994, and at The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D. C., in the fall of 1994.

Now in her early 80s, Louise Bourgeois has had a career that spans more than five decades. Born in France, she has lived in New York since 1938 and received artistic training in both countries. Her deeply autobiographical work in a variety of media and styles has always defied classification, but has reflected these two continents and cultures. During the course of her career she has mastered numerous techniques such as carving, assembling, modeling, and casting, using materials as varied as wood, plaster, latex, bronze, marble, and an array of found objects.

The period covered by this exhibition was one of unprecedented accomplishment during which Louise Bourgeois executed some of her most challenging and monumental work. The sculptures that she has created since her first major retrospective in 1982 have been a culmination of forms and ideas she has pursued throughout her career. They address universal themes that have long obsessed her--anxiety, alienation, love, identity, sex, and death.

The pieces selected for the Biennale bring together for the first time Bourgeois's full range of media, techniques, and thematic content from the past decade. Included are a marble and steel work, Nature Study (Velvet Eyes) (1984); a white marble piece, The Sail (1988); and Cell (Arch of Hysteria) (1992-93), a monumental work constructed of steel, bronze, cast iron and fabric.

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"The recent work of Louise Bourgeois, created during one of the most prolific periods of her long and distinguished career will challenge, fascinate, and inspire those who visit the United States Pavilion at the 45th Venice Biennale. We at The Brooklyn Museum are delighted to have played a role in this effort," states Robert T. Buck, Director.

Charlotta Kotik comments, "Although Bourgeois's presence has been felt in the art world for more than half a century, she has remained outside of its mainstream and ahead of her time, fiercely independent, avidly feminist, and singularly visionary. She is now considered one of our most important living artists, whose legacy is central to our understanding of art at the end of the millenium."

The official U. S. participation in the 45th Venice Biennale has been made possible in part by the FUND FOR U.S. ARTISTS AT INTERNATIONAL FESTIVALS AND EXHIBITIONS, a public/private partnership of the National Endowment for the Arts, the United States Information Agency, The Rockefeller Foundation, and The Pew Charitable Trusts, with administrative support from Arts International, a division of the Institute of International Education.

Philip Morris Companies Inc. is the corporate sponsor of the United States Pavilion and also of the touring exhibition. In 1986 Philip Morris was the first corporation to participate in the Biennale as sponsor of the United States Pavilion.

The Federal Advisory Committee on International Exhibitions provided curatorial guidance to the Fund Partners in selecting the Commissioner of the U. S. Pavilion and the artist representing the

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United States. The official U. S. exhibition at the 45th Venice Biennale is managed by the Arts America Office of the U. S. Information Agency in cooperation with the U. S. Embassy, Rome, The Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice, and the International Program of the National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, D. C.

Philip Morris Companies Inc. celebrates its 35th anniversary in support of the arts in 1993. Since the program's inception in 1958, Philip Morris has supported a broad spectrum of cultural programs that reflect the same spirit of innovation and creativity as demonstrated by its corporate leadership. International in scope, and focused on contemporary and multi-cultural visual and performing arts, Philip Morris' support of the arts has grown into one of the most comprehensive cultural programs in the world.

The exhibition is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

End

June 1993