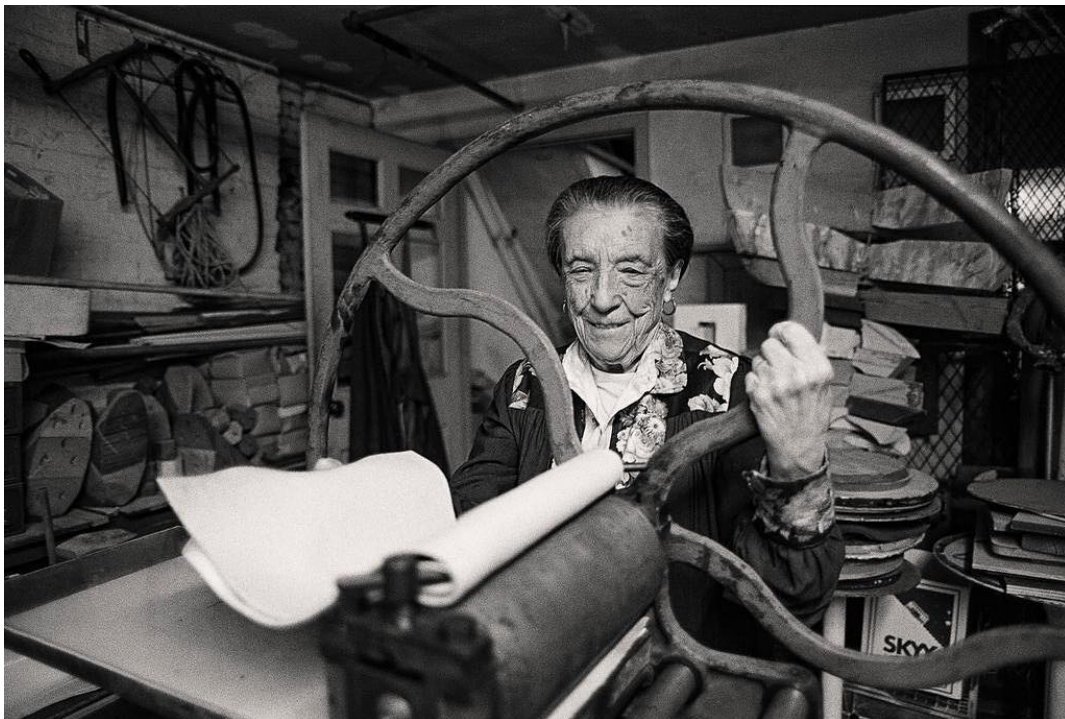




WE ARE OPEN

Louise Bourgeois: What is the Shape of This Problem
from the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation



Louise Bourgeois at the printing press in the lower level of her home/studio on 20th St., NYC, 1995. Photo by: and © Mathias Johansson.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
10 June, 2021**

Esker Foundation is proud to present the solo exhibition *Louise Bourgeois: What is the Shape of This Problem*, from the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation.

**The exhibition will be on view from 10 June until 27 June 2021.
Hours: Wednesday to Sunday, 11am – 6pm, free**

Expanding upon the exhibition *Louise Bourgeois: Ode to Forgetting, From the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and his Family Foundation* (2018) the works in this

exhibition are generously loaned from the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and his Family Foundation. Jordan D. Schnitzer shares:

“I hope that everyone in the community in Calgary has the opportunity to visit in person or online to understand why Louise Bourgeois is recognized as one of the most important artists of our time.”

Louise Bourgeois (1911-2010) is one of the most renowned and influential artists of the 20th Century, a leader in grand scale sculptures, her legacy speaks to artists today. Although best known for her profound sculptures of monumental spiders, evocative human figures, and fleshly anthropomorphic forms, Bourgeois maintained a prolific drawing and writing practice and an ongoing interest in illustrated books and printmaking throughout the course of her 90-year career.

The exhibition *Louise Bourgeois: What is the Shape of This Problem* presents 119 works with a focus on prints, textiles, and a series of eight holograms, ranging in date from the 1940s to the early 2000s. These works build on the raw emotional terrain of Bourgeois’ practice, and explore feelings of isolation, anger, and fear through the recurring depiction of the body, childhood, family, architecture, and the passage of time.

The source for the title of the exhibition, “What is the shape of this problem?” is a question presented on the opening page of a series of nine letterpress diptychs of image and text produced by Bourgeois in 1999, and in many ways it is a poignant frame for the exhibition. This question, like much of the text used in her prints, reveals Bourgeois’ practice of identifying and bravely exploring her personal history, her creative process, and her mental health.

“It is not so much where my motivation comes from but rather how it manages to survive.” – Louise Bourgeois

Bourgeois described her relationship to making art as one of survival and dependence. She openly acknowledged her vulnerability because it gave her purpose, and the work born from that purpose gave form to her particular kind of suffering. In relation to this condition of living and working Bourgeois aptly coined the now famous phrase:

“Art is a guarantee of sanity.”

Louise Bourgeois (b. 1911, Paris; d. 2010, New York) is among the most influential artists of the late 20th century. Bourgeois initially studied mathematics at the Sorbonne, before studying art at institutions including the École des Beaux-Arts, and the École du Louvre. In 1938, she moved to New York where she would live and work until her death.

Bourgeois' distinguished career included major exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art, New York (1982); the Frankfurter Kunstverein (1989); the State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg (2001); and a career retrospective organized by the Tate Modern, London and the Centre Pompidou, Paris (2007-8).

Bourgeois was named Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters by the French minister of culture in 1983. In 1991, she received the French Grand Prix National de Sculpture, as well as the inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Sculpture Center in Washington D.C. Other accolades include the U.S. National Medal of the Arts (1997), and the French Legion of Honor Medal (2008).



About the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation

At age 14, Jordan D. Schnitzer bought his first work of art from his mother's Portland, Oregon contemporary art gallery, evolving into a lifelong avocation as collector. He began collecting contemporary prints and multiples in earnest in 1988. Today, the collection exceeds 14,000 works and includes many of today's most important contemporary artists. It has grown to be one of the country's largest private print collections. He generously lends work from his collection to qualified institutions. The Foundation has organized over 110 exhibitions and has had art exhibited at over 150 museums. Mr. Schnitzer is also President of [Harsch Investment Properties](#), a privately owned real estate investment company based in Portland, Oregon, owning and managing office, multi-tenant industrial, multi-family and retail properties in six western states. For more information about the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation, please visit jordanschnitzer.org. Follow @jschnitzerff on Instagram & Twitter and on Facebook @jordanschnitzerfamilyfoundation



About Esker Foundation

Esker Foundation is a privately funded contemporary art gallery located in Calgary, Canada. The gallery connects the public to contemporary art through relevant, accessible, and educational exhibitions, programs, and publications. Esker Foundation reflects on current developments in local, regional, and international culture; creates opportunities for public dialogue; and supports the production of ground-breaking new work, ideas, and research. Founded in 2012 by Jim and Susan Hill, Esker Foundation is a new model for institutional relevance, curatorial focus, and audience engagement.

Find out more at www.eskerfoundation.art or follow us at @EskerFoundation.

Esker Foundation presents an extensive range of **free online** programs for all ages. Developed in response to our exhibitions they are designed to increase accessibility and to encourage participation in contemporary art. Visit www.eskerfoundation.art/program/current to find out more and to register.

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Admission to the Gallery: Free
Accessibility: Barrier-free

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