

## ARTIST ROOMS Louise Bourgeois

This new exhibition of sculptures, prints and drawings by Louise Bourgeois (1911–2010) will trace pivotal moments in the artist's long career. Highlights will include bronze sculpture *Tits* (1967), hanging fabric sculpture *Couple I* (1996), wall-sculpture *Spider I* (1995) and a late example of the iconic cell series, *Cell XIV [Portrait]* (2000). The selection of works seeks to reveal Bourgeois' experimentation across media and her recurrent focus on the body, gender, identity and autobiography. This exhibition is drawn from the ARTIST ROOMS collection.

The central aim of the selection is to highlight Bourgeois' exploration of autobiography and identity. It begins with the tortured figure in an early self-portrait, moving to an exploration of interiority and exteriority in *Cell XIV*. The most recent work, *À L'infini* (2008–9), with its series of twisting, spiralling and interconnecting red lines – made toward the end of the artist's life – traces the possibility of infinite afterlives in the bloodlines of family.

The thread of autobiography runs strongly in the ARTIST ROOMS collection and the works Kettle's Yard has selected from it, but the gallery will also be showing loans from the wider Tate collection to expand the narrative from the figurative into the abstract, including a selection of etchings from 2006 and 2007, a complement to *À L'infini*. These monochromatic works, large in scale, depict ambiguous biological forms; some body part-like, others foliate, all playing with the tenets of the drawn and printed line. The etchings are also important in providing an index of Bourgeois' career-long concern with amorphous form.

This exhibition draws from ARTIST ROOMS, a touring collection of over 1,600 works of modern and contemporary art by more than 40 major artists. The collection is displayed across the UK through a touring programme, supported by Arts Council England, Art Fund and Creative Scotland.

## Julie Mehretu: Drawings and Monotypes

Invited to exhibit alongside Louise Bourgeois, Julie Mehretu (born 1970 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, based in New York) is making an installation of new drawings and monotypes for Kettle's Yard. The exhibition is the artist's first solo exhibition in a public gallery in the UK.

Inspired by current world issues, including race riots in the USA and the war in Syria, and drawing from her personal biography and the history of abstraction, Mehretu's work interrogates the present with urgency and lyricism. She is best known for her densely layered large-scale paintings, which incorporate architectural blueprints, diagrams and – more recently – found photographs, overwritten by gestural and graphic marks. The works prompt consideration of our relationship with images in a world which can be said to be saturated by images.

The new series of richly layered monotypes will be arranged in a grid. They extend Mehretu's dynamic exploration of the potential of drawing and mark making, which are fundamental to her practice. Made with ink on acrylic panels, which are printed onto paper and painted, all of the works are investigations into composition itself. Each work is both distinct and a product of the same process, part of a larger whole. In addition, all of the works are untitled, extending ideas around regularity and difference into the nomenclature of the process.

A new publication documenting the exhibition will be available in February.

The ARTIST ROOMS collection is shared across the UK through



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**ARTS COUNCIL  
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Showing alongside these exhibitions will be a series of interventions in the Kettle's Yard House by Anthea Hamilton (b. 1978) and other artists that she has invited to participate and a display of work by the British artist Rose Garrard (b. 1946) in the Edlis Neeson Research Space. The display at Kettle's Yard coincides with the acquisition of Garrard's archive by Tate.

## Listings information

ARTIST ROOMS Louise Bourgeois  
22 January – 24 March 2019  
Sackler Gallery

Julie Mehretu: Drawings and Monotypes  
22 January – 24 March 2019  
Gallery 2

Rose Garrard: Casting Room  
15 January – 3 March 2019  
Edlis Neeson Research Space

Anthea Hamilton: Projects  
4 December 2018 – 24 March 2019  
Kettle's Yard House

## About ARTIST ROOMS

The ARTIST ROOMS touring programme is delivered by the National Galleries of Scotland and Tate in a partnership with Ferens Art Gallery until 2019, supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England, by Art Fund and by the National Lottery through Creative Scotland.

## About Louise Bourgeois

Louise Bourgeois was born in Paris in 1911 but lived and worked in New York from 1938. She studied at the Sorbonne and the École des Beaux-Arts, cultivating early associations with Surrealism. Bourgeois worked across painting, sculpture, installation and printmaking, making work that explored, over her long career, individuality and family relationships; the body, sexuality and trauma; history and memory. She was associated with the women's art movement and her work has been extensively explored in relation to feminism. A generation older than the artist-activists of the 1970s, she was a member of the Fight Censorship Group, a collective organised to defend the use of sexual imagery in art. The comradeship of the women's movement gave her work new exposure and in 1982 she had her first retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, and in 2000 her work was exhibited at the opening of Tate Modern in London.

## About Julie Mehretu

Julie Mehretu was born in Addis Ababa in 1970 and lives and works in New York. Mehretu has exhibited extensively including solo exhibitions at Serralves Museum, Porto, Portugal (2017) and Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York (2010). An upcoming survey co-organised by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, opens at LACMA in Autumn 2019 and will tour to other major US venues throughout 2020.



Julie Mehretu, Drawings for Helens Room, 2018. Ink on paper, Sheet size: 9 7/16 x 13 3/8 in. (24 x 34 cm) 13 3/16 x 17 1/8 in. (33.5 x 43.5 cm) (framed) Photo credit: White Cube (Theo Christelis) © Julie Mehretu



Louise Bourgeois, *UNTITLED*, 1946-1947, Oil on canvas, 26 x 44"; 66 x 111.8cm. Framed: 30 1/4 x 48 1/4 x 2 1/4"; 76.8 x 12.5 x 5.7cm. Collection ARTIST ROOMS: National Galleries of Scotland and Tate

## About Kettle's Yard

Kettle's Yard is one of Britain's best galleries - a beautiful and unique house with a distinctive modern art collection, and a gallery exhibiting modern and contemporary art. Supporting this is an established learning and community engagement programme, archive, and programme of chamber concerts. In February 2018, Kettle's Yard reopened after a two year development by architect Jamie Fobert. The new Kettle's Yard includes major new exhibition galleries, generous education spaces, a café and new welcome areas. Kettle's Yard's mission is to contribute to society by inspiring and engaging audiences through art, learning and research of the highest quality. We believe that great art should not be the privilege of the few, but for everyone. Our values reflect Kettle's Yard's creator Jim Ede's support for artists and belief in art's power to make us look again and change how we act in the world.  
[kettlesyard.co.uk](http://kettlesyard.co.uk)