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# Louise Bourgeois: The Return Of The Repressed: Psychoanalytic Writings



## Synopsis

Louise Bourgeois (1911–2010) invented a new kind of language for sculpture--a language that was essentially psychoanalytic, uniquely capable of expressing oedipal struggle, ominous forces of repression, sexual symbolism and material uncanniness. Famed for some of the twentieth century's most enduring works, such as *The Destruction of the Father* (1974), *Arch of Hysteria* (1993) and *Maman* (1999), Bourgeois also disseminated her influence through her writings, collected in the 1998 volume *Destruction of the Father/Reconstruction of the Father: Writings 1927–1997*--originally published by Robert Violette, also the publisher of this new deluxe writings-cum-monograph two-volume set. *Louise Bourgeois: The Return of the Repressed* highlights the enduring presence of psychoanalysis as a motivational force and a site of exploration in the artist's life and work. Selected and edited by Philip Larratt-Smith (Bourgeois's literary archivist), and contextualized with eight extensive scholarly essays, this collection of approximately 80 previously unpublished writings spans some six decades of the artist's production. The second volume in this gorgeous slipcased set is an impressive, up-to-date Bourgeois monograph that details works made right up until the artist's death in 2010. Together, the two volumes comprise the most complete portrait of the life, work and thought of this seminal figure.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Amazing! This is much more than your average art book. It's a comprehensive account of Bourgeois's life and career, in a box-set of two books. The main focus of the pair is *The Return of the Repressed*. The first half is mostly text, but each section is introduced with full-page

reproductions of some of her greatest pieces. This book's rich psychological assessments of Bourgeois's artwork are much more than you could expect to gather from a museum visit. The meaning behind her work is so beautifully detailed in the text. Reading it launched my experience and understanding of Bourgeois into the highest realm. It's a very personal account of her adherence to psychoanalysis, and how it is displayed within her art. Very compelling - lots of Freudian analysis. The latter half of the book is solely devoted to images. It is printed on very nice high quality paper. The second book included in the box - Psychoanalytic Writings - is devoted to Bourgeois's own writings, much like a diary, interspersed with family photos. This content was clearly just intended for her personal catharsis, so it gives a very interesting glimpse directly into her thought process. This is a great buy - it's all you could ever need or want to know about Bourgeois.

Louise Bourgeois was one of my first creative loves. Her psychological take, her visceral story telling, made me think of the feminine and entrapment without transcendence or clarity; it clears your head but she was holding on to the dear end to her sorrows. Even so, her work made me feel understood, almost oceanic. I had no idea she was in therapy; it was implied but never verified. This is an eye-opener and a telling tale of her thoughts and obsessions. I feel the sound of her voice is clear in this collection. There are also images. Tell tale signs. I felt the enclosure for the two volumes was a bit flimsy but the overall impression is solid. I recommend to all those who have loved LB and continue to do so but also those who need an introduction. Man or woman. Cat or dog. Though she never needed my approval. Whose approval was she looking for? Her own? You'll see...

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