



Louise Bourgeois, *Spider* (2003)

# WEEK ONE

ST. BART'S ART CONVERSATIONS

# REMINDERS

**One** | Optional Zoom class session TBD. If interested email: [rachel@art-saoirse.co](mailto:rachel@art-saoirse.co)

---

**Two** | Snag the weekly content each Monday at: <http://www.stbartschurch.org/art/>

---

**Three** | Email your answers to the prompt by each Friday night at: [rachel@art-saoirse.co](mailto:rachel@art-saoirse.co)

---

**Four** | Helpful Resources to brush up on some art lingo:

- A. <https://www.theartstory.org/>
- B. <https://artclasscurator.com/principles-of-design-examples/>
- C. <https://artclasscurator.com/elements-of-art-examples/>

# THEME ONE: TRANSFORMING HATE INTO LOVE



*LOUISE BOURGEOIS*

Born in 1911 in Paris, France/

Laid to Rest in 2010 in Manhattan, USA/

French-American painter, sculptor, embroiderer & more

*IN FOCUS*

Bourgeois' work is a visual manifestation of her life experiences, especially with regard to her family

*“I was in effect a runaway girl.  
I was a runaway girl  
who turned out  
alright.”*

*-Louise Bourgeois*

CLICK BELOW to  
WATCH

*this Interview about Louise  
Bourgeois:*



[https://www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=qy7xJhImnLw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qy7xJhImnLw)



*I Have Been to Hell and Back, And Let Me Tell You It was Wonderful (Blue), 1996*

Embroidery on cotton  
31 x 31 cm (12.2 x 12.2 in)



*The Couple* (2007-2009)  
Cast & polished aluminum  
61 x 30 x 26" (154.9 x 76.2 x 66 cm)

# CHOOSE YOUR READING(S)

*about Louise Bourgeois*  
**LIGHTER READINGS:**

A.

<https://www.artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-arachnophobe-faces-louise-bourgeois-iconic-spiders>

B.

<https://www.artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-louise-bourgeois-finding-inspiration-solitude>

# CHOOSE YOUR READING(S)

*about Louise Bourgeois*

HEAVIER READINGS:

## C. Fictional Context

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/13y-HHLFADUq31jNIuTW2bDLSZXQb7rrU/view?usp=sharing>

## D. Theoretical Context

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1e\\_yOiLibq0rpCcsxaqOEPUCfKFnr2bdw/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1e_yOiLibq0rpCcsxaqOEPUCfKFnr2bdw/view?usp=sharing)

*\*Please note—if these links do not work, I can email them to you. Reach out & let me know.\**



*Maman (1999)*  
Bronze, stainless steel, marble

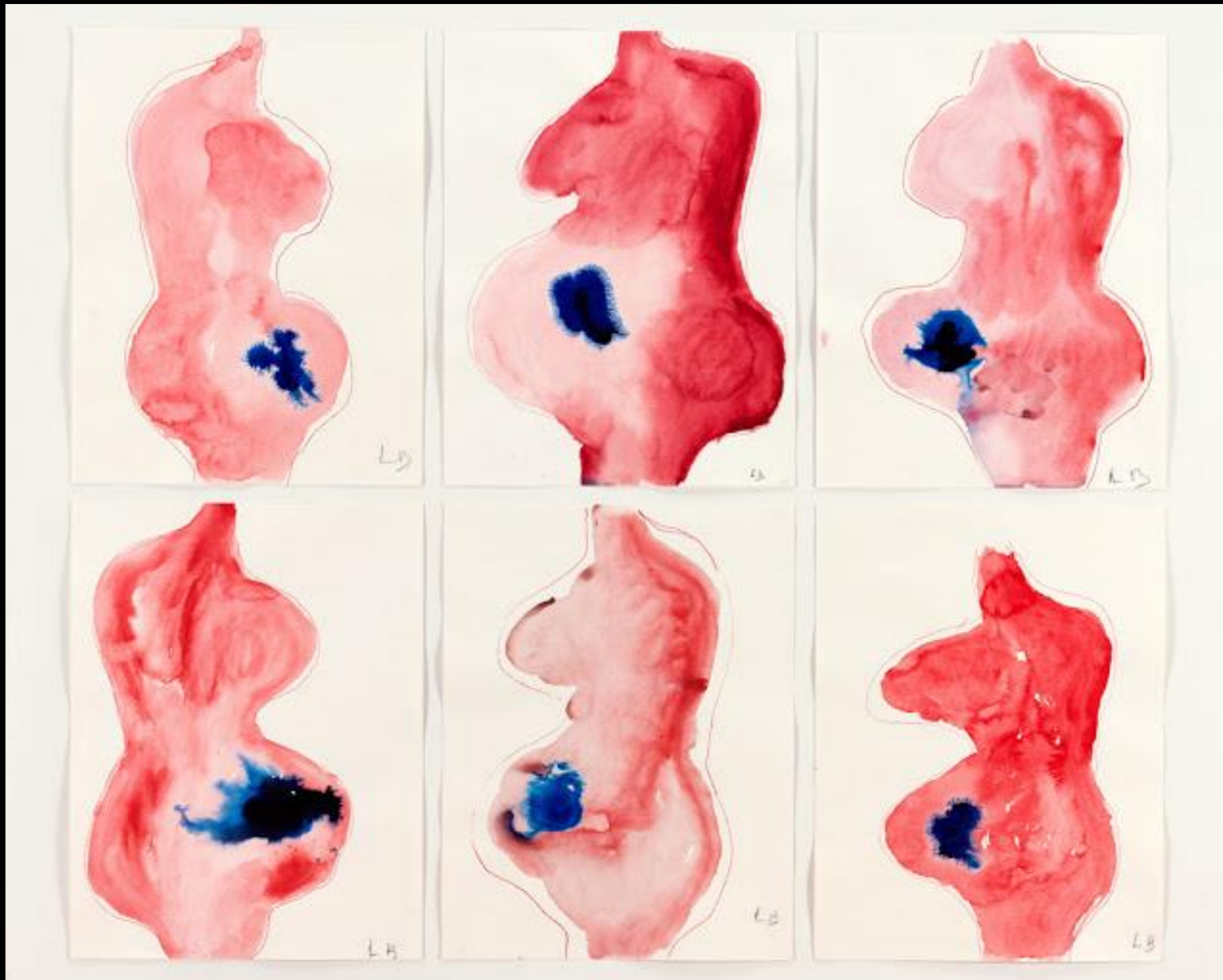
LISTEN + WATCH

*my RECAP:*



<https://youtu.be/w4xZxhWeK9o>





*Pregnant Woman* (2009) Gouache and colored pencil on paper, 59.4 x 45.7 cm

# CHOOSE A QUESTION OR TWO TO RESPOND TO:

1. From the video, we heard the idea that Bourgeois' art materials were something she resisted against to express her rage. Trauma, anger & rage were her "tools." What do you think about the notion of harnessing such difficult life experiences into artwork—into any creative work? Creative work can be gardening, drawing, dancing, cooking, yoga, etc.
2. What do you think of Bourgeois artwork? Does it express love or hate? List a work of hers you love or hate & why.
3. How does the artistic philosophy of Bourgeois' to "do, undo, redo" apply to your life now? Consider examples from the readings you chose.



Louise Bourgeois in her Brooklyn studio in 1996 with her sculpture, SPIDER IV. Art: © The Easton Foundation / Licensed by Pictoright and VAGA at ARS, NY, Photo: © Peter Bellamy

*“A ferocious desire for independence is in all the figures...a determination to survive at whatever fragile level you can achieve.”*

*-Louise Bourgeois*



*The Couple* (2002) Glass, beads, fabric and steel