

LIVING MEMORY: Louise Bourgeois, Nicolas Godin and Gideon Rubin

The All Saints Chapel, 82-83 Margaret Street, London

28.09.2023 - 27.10.2023

28.09.2023: Late Night opening

05.10.2023 | 17.30 : Book Launch and Talk

UNITY GROUP is pleased to announce an exhibition of Louise Bourgeois and Gideon Rubin in the chapel of All Saints House including a sound intervention by Nicolas Godin of musical duo, AIR. Curated by Beth Greenacre the exhibition will run from 28 September to 27 October and coincide with Frieze London.

The All Saints Chapel was the first purpose-built place of worship for the Society of All Saints Sisters of the Poor; rich in cultural and historic interest the chapel houses a wall painting from 1861 of the Crucifixion with attendant female saints by John Richard Clayton. The fresco, along with the convent's purposeful history, which accommodated a women's order, whilst serving as a space for women, provides a poignant context in which to house the work of Bourgeois and Rubin. Though working across different periods and from different perspectives both artists have, or had, a career-long exploration of the human form, particularly women's bodies, exploring the important role that memory and time plays not only in the creation of art, but also in how we understand ourselves, the world and our surroundings.

Painting and art making for both artists is a therapeutic process. Louise Bourgeois was in psychoanalysis for much of her adult life which in turn influenced her artistic practice that she described as a parallel "form of psychoanalysis". For the artist, art offered privileged and unique access to the unconscious, as well as being a form of psychological release. And although a professed atheist, Bourgeois stated that she had "a religious temperament" when describing the emotional and spiritual energy that she poured into her work.

Louise Bourgeois sublimated her emotions and childhood traumas into her practice, whilst Gideon Rubin's haunting faceless characters in muted tones, which are sourced from other peoples faded photographs, old magazines or film stills, imply a sense of loss and melancholy, of remote memories. The erasure of facial features could be seen as a violent act and Rubin has periodically addressed the painful reality of the erasure of cultural and social identities throughout our own recent history. However in each artists practice turmoil is enveloped in the creative act of making. Both acknowledge the power of art as social prescription, as a means to mitigate past wounds; to understand, acknowledge and amend.

The exhibition will include a new series of paintings by Rubin based on stills from *Mädchen in Uniform*, the 1931 film by Christa Winsloe, alongside three significant sculptures by Bourgeois from the late 1940's to the 2000's. Many of Bourgeois' breakthrough works were from the 1940's, including those made from scavenged and carved wood that are then cast in bronze, such as *Woman with a Secret*, which like *Brother and Sister* from 1949 represent the artist's interest in the human form and relationships but also in traditional techniques. A third work, *Arch of Hysteria* from 2000, explores the body in sewn fabric and refers to the work of French neurologist Jean-Martin Charcot, best known for his pioneering work on 'hysteria'.

Music acts as a conduit between the psychological and visceral and a brand new audio work by French musician, Nicolas Godin becomes an integral element of the immersive exhibition. In response to the artists practices and to the architecture of the chapel - which historically would have been animated by sound - the soundscape is conceived to create a space that is both physical and reflective.

The exhibition is generously supported by Galerie Karsten Greve.

Notes to Editors:

05.10.2023, 17.30

Launch of Gideon Rubin's latest monograph published by Anomie Publishing; London with an introduction by Jennifer Higgle

Art and Music: an in-conversation with musician Nicolas Godin, curator Beth Greenacre and artist Gideon Rubin chaired by Anahita Vessier.

Louise Bourgeois was born in 1911 in Paris. Her works were first recognised in the US, especially in New York, where she lived from 1938 onwards. In 1982, the Museum of Modern Art, New York, showed the first retrospective of her work, which led to further exhibitions throughout the US and in Europe from 1989. She became well-known internationally following her participation in the documenta 9 in Kassel, Germany, in 1992, the following year her participation in the 1993 Venice Biennale gained her an Honourable Mention. Today, she is one of the most renowned artists in the world and numerous museums have honoured her with important solo exhibitions. Louise Bourgeois died in New York in 2010.

A former architecture student at École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Versailles **Nicolas Godin** is a French musician and one half of the influential French electronic duo Air. Their full-length debut Studio album Moon Safari, released in 1998 was an instant chart success. In 2015, Godin released his first solo album Contrepoint, inspired by the music of Johann Sebastian Bach, his second studio album Concrete and Glass followed in 2020. In addition, Godin has collaborated with Charlotte Gainsbourg and contributed music to the movies Lost in Translation and The Virgin Suicides. In March this year he released the 15-track album Fire of Love; the score for the Oscars-nominated documentary film directed by Sara Dose.

Gideon Rubin was born in Tel Aviv, Israel in 1973. He graduated from the School of Visual Arts in New York in 1999, and received a master's degree from the Slade School of Fine Arts, the University of London in 2002. He currently lives and works in London. Rubin's works have been exhibited and collected by many important art institutions in the world, including Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art in Israel, Freud Museum in London, Rubin Museum in Tel Aviv, FLAG Art Foundation, New York, Glasgow Mackintosh Museum, Voorlinden Museum, The Netherlands, McEvoy Art Foundation in San Francisco, Frances Foundation in France, San Jose ICA, Changdu MOCA, China, Israel Museum, Jerusalem.

With over 20 years experience in the art market, **Beth Greenacre** is an experienced and trusted curator, advisor and consultant working with private and corporate collectors, commercial and non-for-profit organisations. Beth graduated from The Courtauld Institute of Art and Birkbeck University, from early in her career until the artists' death, she was curator of the David Bowie collection, an important and extensive collection at the heart of which, was a remarkable group of many of the most important British artists of the 20th Century. She sits on the Executive Committee of AWITA, The Association of Women in the Arts, is Chairperson of the Courtauld Association Committee and is an Advisory Board member of She CURAtes: The Residency.

Unity Real Estate: Unity Real Estate is part of Unity Group, which recently rebranded from DAO. More information about the company can be found at <http://unitygroup.world> Unity Real Estate has a portfolio of office properties across London, including 78 Cowcross Street and Byron House in St James' Street.

Karsten Greve opened his first gallery in Cologne in 1973 with a solo exhibition of Yves Klein, additional premises soon followed in Paris and St. Moritz. Founded on Karsten's personal relationships with artists from the post-1945 avant-garde, such as Cy Twombly, Louise Bourgeois, Jannis Kounellis, John Chamberlain, and Pierre Soulages the gallery continues to organise important solo exhibitions of internationally renowned artists including Lucio Fontana, Piero Manzoni, Joseph Cornell and Willem de Kooning.

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