

Newark Community Art Club with Elaine Winter

Session no. 18 (Spring Term):

Sculpture inspired by Louise Bourgeois



Materials needed:

Pencil, rubber, sharpener

White paper to draw on (any size you like to work on and whatever you have at hand) – ideally several sheets

Aluminium foil on a roll

Introduction: The Tate Modern opened in May 2000 and the huge sculpture 'Maman' by Louise Bourgeois was installed in the Turbine Hall, the big central space in the gallery. It is so large it can usually only be installed outdoors. It is a monumental steel spider and is called Maman as the emotional development of motherhood is a theme running through much of this artist's work. Sculpture on this scale often starts out as sculpture on a much smaller scale with the making of a 'maquette' – a small scale version. You can make a similar maquette sculpture using household materials and then imagine what it would look like scaled up.



Activity 1 – Louise Bourgeois made this sculpture in the late 1990s but the origins of it (and other spider sculptures she made) were a motif she first depicted in a small ink and charcoal drawing in 1947. Many sculptors use drawings to think through how they might make a piece. Think about a creature you might like you make a similarly huge sculpture of. Do some exploratory drawings of that creature.

Activity 2 – (With permission granted to use the foil you have in your house) Try to make your creature using aluminium foil. The great thing about foil is that it can be scrunched and twisted into pieces to give something form so e.g. if you were to make something like a spider's leg you can twist and scrunch it until you get the size you want then and then move them to make them take on the articulation you would like to give the real sense of the movement of the creature.



Activity 3 – Continue to make your creature. You can overlap and scrunch together elements to make joints or use more foil to join together the different pieces. You might need a spot of glue but try to make it without if you can.

Activity 4 – Imagine how your mini sculpture would look if it was scaled up and installed in a public space. If you have time try drawing it and drawing the setting you have put it in.