

Spider III



Spider III, 1995

Spider Woman

Late in her career, **Louise Bourgeois (1911–2010)** revisited themes from her past. She drew her first spider in 1947. When Bourgeois returned to the motif in the mid-1990s, she depicted these eight-legged creatures in two and three dimensions, at large and small scales.

Take a closer look

Take a moment to view *Spider III* from various angles. Consider how these changes in perspective affect the details you notice and your response to the work.

Something to talk about

While spiders can be a source of fear or anxiety for many, Bourgeois recognized her mother's characteristics in these protective, resourceful creatures. What do they evoke for you? Which animal would you choose to represent you? Why?

In her own words

"'The female spider' has a bad reputation—a stinger, a killer. I rehabilitate her. If I have to rehabilitate her it is because I feel criticized."

Who knew?

Before her own work graced galleries and museums, Bourgeois introduced visitors to her artistic predecessors as a docent at the Louvre Museum in Paris.

Louise Bourgeois, *Spider III*, 1995; Bronze, 19 x 33 x 33 inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of Wilhelmina Cole Holladay; Art © The Easton Foundation/Licensed by VAGA, New York, NY; Photograph by Lee Stalsworth

