Costumed dancers add dramatic twist to art exhibition

Performers in fantastical, abstract costumes will dance through the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art in an event honouring the confessional art of Louise Bourgeois.

Dancers in outfits inspired by her work will perform EPISODES amid the sculptures and sketches of the show, Louise Bourgeois, A Woman Without Secrets, on Saturday 22 March at 11am and 2pm.

EPISODES is a unique collaboration between the National Galleries of Scotland, Edinburgh College of Art (ECA) and Edinburgh College. The free, unticketed performance at the Edinburgh gallery lasts for one hour.

Photographers are invited to a preview at 3pm on Thursday 20 March. Dancers in costume can be photographed among Bourgeois’ art, including her giant sculpture, Spider.

Third year Performance Costume students at ECA designed the outfits in response to Bourgeois’ work. Students from Edinburgh College’s BA Honours Dance course will interpret both the art and the costumes through movement and dance.

Louise Bourgeois, A Woman Without Secrets, focuses on the French-American artist’s later work, made in the decades before her death in 2010. Running until 18 May, it showcases the collection of her work on loan to the national ARTIST ROOMS programme for the first time.

Megan Baker, director of performance costume at ECA, said: “This is a very exciting project, where our students have collaborated to interpret the depth and honesty of Louise Bourgeois's work through movement and affecting costume pieces. The process has been an inspiring and rewarding journey for everyone involved and it promises to be a fascinating performance.”

Ethelinda Lashley, dance lecturer at Edinburgh College, said: “Our BA Honours Dance students have worked incredibly hard to bring the costumes to life through expressive
movement and dance. It has been a brilliant experience for them. The relationship between Edinburgh College, Edinburgh College of Art and the National Galleries of Scotland demonstrates partnership working at its very best in order to offer our students outstanding educational experiences.’”

Siobhan McConnachie, Head of Education at the National Galleries of Scotland, said: “This exciting collaboration offers a unique way to experience the work of Louise Bourgeois. It has been an enormous pleasure working with the students and we're delighted with the final performance.”

**For further information, please contact:**
Edd McCracken, Press and PR Office, tel 0131 651 4400; email eddmccracken@ed.ac.uk