



MOTHERHOOD

BY ANN COXON

A captivating visual exploration of motherhood as seen through the eyes of artists over the last 150 years.

Depictions of motherhood are ever present in Western art, yet rarely questioned or challenged. We may shy away from a subject that could be seen as sentimental or overly associated with idealistic constructs of femininity, nurture and care. Whether we are mothers ourselves, or whether we bring or nurture life in a wider sense, we all have some understanding of motherhood. We are all born of a woman's body. We are formed from the messy, challenging, self-denying and transformative experiences of motherhood. Giving birth to their creations, artists have represented this vital and complex subject in a variety of ways, providing insight into what motherhood might mean, its joys and challenges, and seeking to articulate its unspoken aspects.

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This beautiful gift book delves into the subject of motherhood as seen through the eyes of artists, providing a fresh insight into maternity as an art-historical subject and revealing the ways in which it has been confronted and re-imagined in the past 150 years. Featuring fifty artworks in a variety of media, this book is a celebration of motherhood in all its complexity.

BIOGRAPHY

Ann Coxon is Curator of International Art at Tate. She has curated numerous collection displays, including monographic galleries of works by Bruce Nauman, Louise Bourgeois, Janet Cardiff, Magdalena Abakanowicz, Phyllida Barlow, Mona Hatoum and many others. Most recently she curated retrospectives on *Dorothea Tanning* (2019) and *Anni Albers* (2018), and an exhibition on *Magdalena Abakanowicz* (2022).

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