Self-portraits of my feelings

On a sunny day in August 2022, JENNIFER HIGGIE travelled to the English seaside town of Margate to visit TRACEY EMIN. They talked about the evolution of the artist's work and how the National Gallery's recent acquisitions – the monumental sculpture *When I sleep* and the prints *Do not abandon me*, which she created alongside the legendary artist LOUISE BOURGEOIS – came about.

Tracey Emin – Jennifer Higgie
Interviewer
Louise Bourgeois
Jennifer Higgie
Tracey Emin is a contemporary artist living between Margate and London. Her most recent exhibition, 'Where I Lay', was held in the Rotunda at Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, in 2021. Her latest book, *Mad Girl*, is out now.

Jennifer Higgie is an Australian curator, art critic, and contributing editor to the British magazine Frieze. She co-curated the Australian Pavilion at the 58th Venice Biennale and the Tate Modern's Turbine Hall commission of Abbas Kiarostami's *Shirin*.

JENNIFER HIGGIE: When did you first start working in bronze?

TRACEY EMIN: Around 2000. I began making my sculptures from plastiboard and then I would take them to a foundry in Hackney to have them cast in bronze. I couldn't work out how to do it; I didn't need to. New Town's Louise Bourgeois exhibition was coming up and I was very, very, very,