

RODIN

In His Own Words,

Selections from the
Iris & B. Gerald Cantor
Foundation

March 8 – April 22, 2008

The Hillstrom Museum of Art
Gustavus Adolphus College

This exhibition has been organized and made possible by
the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Foundation.

The Hillstrom Museum of Art venue of this exhibition is supported by
a generous grant from the Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation.

Director's Note

The Hillstrom Museum of Art presents *Rodin: In His Own Words, Selections from the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Foundation*, which pairs bronze sculptures from throughout the long and productive career of the great French sculptor Auguste Rodin (1840-1917) with contemporary texts, from Rodin's letters and from publications by himself and others, that explicate the artist's thoughts on specific works and his philosophy of art in general. Rodin is considered to have been one of the greatest sculptors of the Western tradition, on par with artists such as Michelangelo (1475-1564), Gianlorenzo Bernini (1598-1680) and Antonio Canova (1757-1822).

Rodin was highly influential, inspiring countless artists who followed him. Sculptor Paul Granlund (1925-2003), who served for many years as the Sculptor in Residence at Gustavus Adolphus College, frequently cited Rodin as a primary influence on his own figural work in bronze. One sculpture in the exhibition, Rodin's *Three Faunesses*, was a particular inspiration for Granlund's 1964 bronze titled *Flower*, which he created after seeing a cast of Rodin's bronze in a gallery in Paris.

Among the other sculptures in the exhibit are famous, iconic works such as *The Thinker*, which derives from a larger ensemble the artist never finished, titled *The Gates of Hell*. Rodin received this commission, for a pair of massive bronze historiated doors for the entrance to a planned (but never constructed) museum of decorative arts, in 1880, and drew his inspiration from the *Inferno* by Italian poet Dante (1265-1321). Also included in the exhibition is a cast of Rodin's *Burghers of Calais, First Maquette*, which relates to the monument commissioned by the French city of Calais in 1884 to commemorate an heroic incident in the Hundred Years War in which six citizens of the town offered themselves as a sacrifice to English King Edward III in exchange for lifting his siege against Calais. Another work in the exhibit is an example of Rodin's *Saint John the Baptist Preaching* (first modeled in 1880). It was based on an Italian model named César Pignatelli, and its object label notes that the artist, upon first seeing this man, immediately thought of the rough, visionary nature of St. John. Rodin's work was based on very personal responses to his models, and this approach is reflected in this bronze.

This exhibition has been organized and made possible by the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Foundation. The Cantor Foundation is dedicated to excellence in the arts, particularly through the support of art exhibitions and scholarship and the endowment of galleries and sculpture gardens at major museums. B. Gerald Cantor first encountered Rodin in 1945, and he purchased his first work by the artist some eighteen months later. Between then and his death in 1996, Cantor collected nearly 750 sculptures, drawings, prints, photographs and documents by or about Rodin. Cantor's obsession with Rodin (as he himself described it) led him to share his interest in the artist with others, and over 450 works of art from the Cantor Collection have been given to over seventy museums, including the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Center for Visual Arts at Stanford University.

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In conjunction with the exhibition, the Museum will present a lecture by Dr. Ruth Butler, one of the foremost authorities on Rodin and the author of numerous publications on the artist, including her magisterial *Rodin: The Shape of Genius* (1993). The lecture, which is free and open to the public, will be held on March 9, 2008, at 3:30 p.m. in Wallenberg Auditorium, Nobel Hall of Science, Gustavus Adolphus College. It will be followed by a reception at the Museum, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Dr. Butler's lecture and campus visit are supported by the Lecture Series and the Women's Studies Program of Gustavus Adolphus College, and by a generous grant from the Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation.

The Museum would like to acknowledge Judith Sobol, Executive Director of the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Foundation, and Foundation staff members Jennifer Garpner and Mary More. All were very giving of their time during the planning and execution of the exhibition. We also thank Iris Cantor, whose shared vision with her late husband B. Gerald Cantor has benefited so many museums and galleries and the art lovers who visit them, through exhibitions and donations of works by Rodin from the Cantor Collection and the Cantor Foundation.

Donald Myers
Director
Hillstrom Museum of Art

BRONZES BY RODIN

Andrieu d'Andres

Modeled about 1886-87, Musée Rodin
cast number 11/12 in 1966, Georges
Rudier Foundry
Bronze
18 ½ x 7 ¾ x 8 ½ inches
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation

The Burghers of Calais, First Maquette

Modeled 1884, Musée Rodin cast number
5/12 in 1973, Godard Foundry
Bronze
13 ¾ x 13 ¾ x 9 ½ inches
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation

Danaïd

Modeled 1885-89, Musée Rodin cast
number 8 in 1979, Godard Foundry
Bronze
12 ¾ x 28 ¾ x 22 ½ inches
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation,
promised gift to the North Carolina
Museum of Art

Ecclesiastes

Modeled before 1899, Musée Rodin cast
number II/IV in 1995, Godard Foundry
Bronze
10 ½ x 10 ¼ x 11 ¾ inches
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation

Falling Man

Modeled 1882, Musée Rodin cast number
5/12 in 1974, Susse Foundry
Bronze
23 ¼ x 17 x 10 inches
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Collection

Female Torso, Kneeling, Twisting Nude

Date unknown, Musée Rodin cast number
II/IV in 1984, Godard Foundry
Bronze
23 ¾ x 12 ¾ x 13 ¾ inches
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation

Female Torso (F & A)

Modeled 1909, Musée Rodin cast number
3 in 1979, Coubertin Foundry
Bronze
24 ¾ x 15 x 7 ¾ inches
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation

Head of Balzac

Modeled 1892-93, Musée Rodin cast
number 4/8 in 1985, Godard Foundry
Bronze
10 x 10 ¼ x 9 ⅞ inches
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Collection

Head of Balzac, Penultimate Study

Modeled 1897, cast number and date of
cast unknown, Alexis Rudier Foundry
Bronze
6 ¼ x 6 x 7 inches
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Collection

Head of Pope Benedict XV

Modeled 1915, Musée Rodin cast number
10/12 in 1978, Georges Rudier
Foundry
Bronze
10 x 7 x 9 ½ inches
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation

Head of Shade

Modeled about 1880, Musée Rodin cast
number II/IV in 1995, Godard Foundry
Bronze
26 ½ x 14 ¼ x 15 ½ inches
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation

I Am Beautiful

Modeled before 1886, cast number and
date of cast unknown, Alexis Rudier
Foundry
Bronze
27 ¾ x 12 x 12 ½ inches
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation,
promised gift to the North Carolina
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Jules Bastien-Lepage

Modeled 1889, Musée Rodin cast number
4/8 in 1988, Coubertin Foundry
Bronze
69 x 36 x 33 ½ inches
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation

Left Hand of Pierre de Wiessant

Modeled about 1884-89, cast number
and date of cast unknown, Alexis
Rudier Foundry
Bronze
11 x 7 ½ x 6 inches
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation

Mask of Iris

Modeled 1891, Musée Rodin cast number
6 in 1964, Georges Rudier Foundry
Bronze
4 ½ x 2 ¾ x 2 ¼ inches
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation

Mask of the Man with the Broken Nose

Modeled 1863-64, Musée Rodin cast
number 12/12 in 1979, Coubertin
Foundry
Bronze
18 ¼ x 7 ¾ x 6 ½ inches
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Collection

Monumental Head of Saint John the Baptist

Modeled about 1879, Musée Rodin cast
number II/IV in 1985, Godard Foundry
Bronze
21 ½ x 20 ¾ x 15 ¼ inches
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Collection

Paolo and Francesca

Modeled 1889, Musée Rodin cast number
5 in 1983, Georges Rudier Foundry
Bronze
12 x 22 ¼ x 14 ¾ inches
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Collection

Saint John the Baptist Preaching

Modeled about 1880, cast in 1925, cast
number unknown, Alexis Rudier
Foundry
Bronze
31 ½ x 19 x 9 ½ inches
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Collection

Small Right Clenched Hand

Modeled about 1885, cast number and
date of cast unknown, Alexis Rudier
Foundry
Bronze
5 ½ x 4 ½ x 2 ½ inches
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation

Small Torso of a Woman (Type "A")

Date unknown, Musée Rodin cast number
11 in 1978, Georges Rudier Foundry
Bronze
6 ¾ x 3 ½ x 2 ½ inches
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation

Sorrow

Modeled 1889, Musée Rodin cast number
III/IV in 1983, Coubertin Foundry
Bronze
11 ½ x 6 ½ x 6 ¾ inches
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BRONZES BY RODIN *continued*

Sphinx on a Column

Modeled 1889 or later, Musée Rodin
cast number III/IV in 1995, Godard
Foundry
Bronze
36 x 6 ½ x 9 ¼ inches
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation

The Night (Double Figure)

Modeled after 1898, Musée Rodin cast
number I/IV in 1983, Godard
Foundry
Bronze
10 ¼ x 6 x 6 inches
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation

The Night (Single Figure)

Modeled after 1898, Musée Rodin cast
number 5/12 in 1973, Georges
Rudier Foundry
Bronze
10 ¼ x 5 ½ x 6 ¾ inches
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation

The Spirit of War

Modeled 1883, lifetime cast, cast
number unknown, Griffoul & Lorge
Foundry
Bronze
44 ½ x 22 ½ x 15 inches
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation

The Thinker

Modeled 1880, reduced in 1903, cast
about 1931, cast number unknown,
Alexis Rudier Foundry
Bronze
14 ¾ x 7 ¾ x 11 ¾ inches
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Collection

Three Faunesses

Modeled before 1896, cast in 1959, cast
number unknown, Georges Rudier
Foundry
Bronze
9 ¼ x 11 ½ x 6 ½ inches
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation

Torso of Despairing Adolescent

Modeled about 1882-87, Musée Rodin
cast number 1/8 in 1992, Godard
Foundry
Bronze
10 ½ x 4 ¼ x 5 inches
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Collection

Torso of the Walking Man

Modeled 1878-79, Musée Rodin cast
number 10/12 in 1979, Coubertin
Foundry
Bronze
20 ½ x 10 ¾ x 8 inches
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation

Tragic Muse

Modeled 1894-96, Musée Rodin cast
number 5/8 in 1986, Godard Foundry
Bronze
13 x 25 ½ x 15 ¼ inches
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation

Ugolino and Sons

Modeled 1881-82, cast number 2, date
of cast and foundry unknown
Bronze
16 ½ x 16 ¾ x 19 ¾ inches
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation,
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Venus

Modeled about 1888, Musée Rodin cast
number 9/12 in 1978, Godard Foundry
Bronze
40 ½ x 7 ½ x 11 ½ inches
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation

Woman with Crab

Modeled about 1886, cast number, date
of cast, and foundry unknown
Bronze
8 ½ x 4 ½ x 4 ½ inches
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation

Books, Letters and Other Works

Auguste Rodin

L'Art: Entretiens Réunis par Paul Gsell
1912, Paris
Bernard Grasset, Éditeur
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation

François Dujardin-Beaumetz, Ancien
Sous-Secrétaire d'État aux Beaux-Arts
Entretiens avec Rodin
1913, Paris
Published by Paul Dupont
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation

Auguste Rodin

Les Cathédrales de France
1914, Paris
Librairie Armand Colin
—volume inscribed to Mrs. Kate
Simpson from Mr. William C.
Brownell, 1914
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation

Auguste Rodin

Venus: To the Venus of Melos
Authorized translation from the French
by Dorothy Dudley
1912, New York
B.W. Huebsch
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation

Letter from Rodin to Karl Boès

Date unknown
Mixed media
6 x 8 ½ inches
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Collection

Letter from Rodin to "Monsieur Le President"

November 11, 1894
Ink on paper
9 x 5 inches
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Collection

John Tweed (English, 1869-1933)

Relief Portrait Bust of Rodin
Modeled about 1895, cast number, date
of cast, and foundry unknown
Bronze
9 x 8 x 1 ½ inches
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation



Hillstrom Museum of Art

Events are free and open to the public.

Museum Hours: 9 a.m.–4 p.m. weekdays, 1–5 p.m. weekends

For more information, visit gustavus.edu/oncampus/finearts/hillstrom/

To be placed on the Museum's emailing list, send a message to hillstrom@gustavus.edu.

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