

PHOENIX ART MUSEUM

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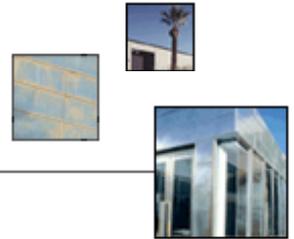
Degas IN BRONZE

FEBRUARY 29 – MAY 30, 2004

1625
NORTH CENTRAL AVENUE
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85004-1685
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CURRENT EXHIBITIONS



Degas

IN BRONZE

FEBRUARY 29 – MAY 30, 2004

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Now, visitors to Phoenix Art Museum have an unprecedented opportunity to experience a complete set of all 73 of Edgar Degas' sculptures come to life. It is an exploration, like no other, of motion, method and the artist's mind. It is perhaps the most important body of sculpture produced in the 19th century; it is the vital link between the way sculptors worked before and ever since.

The exhibition offers an intimate understanding of how Degas evolved to become an important impressionist artist and a fuller view of his creative genius for representing the figure in motion. He looked at life in Paris with a new eye, especially through his two favorite subjects, dancers and horses - they shared an array of motion, pose and expression, to which Degas dedicated his career. These concepts permeate his sculptures, as explored in this exhibition, as well as his paintings, pastels, prints, drawings and photographs. But it was with his work in clay and wax that allowed him to understand a movement, a form, in all of its three-dimensional glory. It is through his sculpture that we see the evolution of his creative genius and his landmark contribution to the birth of Modernism.



Dancer at Rest (no. 63),
Edgar Degas, modeled c. 1881-1895.
Bronze.
Collection Museu de Arte de São Paulo
Brazil.
© 2002 International Arts, TN.
Photo: Pierre-Alain Ferrazzini

Featured among Degas' celebrated dancers, bathers and horses in *Degas in Bronze* is the famed *Little Dancer, Aged Fourteen*. This single sculpture, worked on by Degas for two years, may be the most historically important sculpture in French art of the 19th century. This masterpiece was the only sculpture Degas exhibited in his lifetime when he included it in the sixth exhibition of impressionist art in Paris in 1881. While the groundbreaking mixed-media work was roundly condemned at the time by a number of prominent critics, many of his fellow impressionist artists applauded him as the first modern sculptor. His close friend, artist Mary Cassatt, believed "...he will live to be greater as a sculptor than as a painter," and Pierre-Auguste Renoir went so far as to proclaim Degas "the greatest living sculptor."

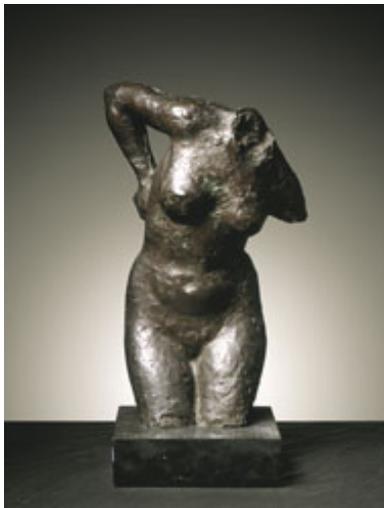


Little Dancer, Aged Fourteen (no. 73)
Edgar Degas, modeled 1880/81.
Bronze.
Collection Museu de Arte de
São Paulo, Brazil.
© 2002 International Arts, TN.
Photo: Pierre-Alain Ferrazzini

Upon his death in 1917, approximately 150 wax and modeling clay sculptures were found in his studio in various states of completion and repair. His colleagues recognized the importance of preserving these works for posterity and his heirs chose 73 examples to be cast in bronze in a very limited edition by the Parisian art-foundry Hébrard. These have allowed subsequent generations remarkable access to Degas' creative process and method. *Degas in Bronze* features one of only four complete sets that remain. By showing all 73 of his bronze sculptures of dancers, bathers and horses together, it offers special insight into both the working practice and the mind of perhaps the most important artist at this critical period in the history of art.

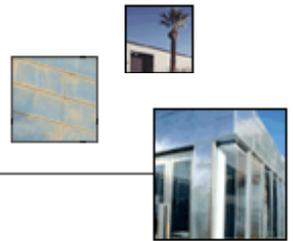


Dancer Fourth Position Front (no. 08)
Edgar Degas, modeled c. 1883-1911.
Bronze. Collection Museu de Arte de
São Paulo, Brazil.
© 2002 International Arts,
TN. Photo: Pierre-Alain Ferrazzini



*Woman Rubbing Her Back with a
Sponge, Torso (no. 28)*
Edgar Degas, modeled c. 1888-1892.
Bronze. Collection Museu de Arte de
São Paulo, Brazil.
© 2002 International Arts, TN.
Photo: Pierre-Alain Ferrazzini

The exhibition is organized by Joseph S. Czestochowski, International Arts, Memphis, Tennessee, from the Collections of the Museu de Arte de São Paulo, Brazil. The Arizona presentation is made possible by Barbara C. Dow, Bank One, SRP, and the Museum's Friends of European Art and Connoisseurs Circle. Promotional support is provided by ClearChannel Radio, The Arizona Republic, KPNX-TV Channel 12, Phoenix Magazine, KJZZ/KBAQ Radio and The Jewish News of Greater Phoenix.



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PAST EXHIBITIONS



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Lectures

"This will lead me far...": Tradition and the Birth of Abstraction in Degas' Sculpture

Tom Loughman, Phoenix Art Museum's curator of European art
Explore how the sculptures in Degas in Bronze compare and contrast to those created by Degas' contemporaries.

Thursday, April 1, 7pm, Whiteman Hall, free

Edgar Degas: Fragile Sculptural Sketches as Solid Foundations of Modernism

Doug Lewis, curator of sculpture and decorative arts at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
Explore Degas' development of an entirely new way of perceiving the human figure and of representing it in art.

Thursday, April 15, 7pm, Whiteman Hall, free

Family Sunday

Join us on the third Sunday of the month for a participatory art experience designed for children ages 5-12 and their adult companions. Family Sundays, which are free with Museum admission, include art-making activities and guided explorations of the Museum. Family Sundays are made possible in part through generous support from the Iowa Foundation for Education, Environment and the Arts, and Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture.

• April 18: Horse Sculpture, Horse Sense

In honor of the horses in Degas in Bronze, view animal sculpture in the Western American gallery and join ASU's Hunkapi Horse Program and Phoenix Zoo staff in the courtyard where you can see how a real horse moves and behaves. 1-3pm.



Horse Galloping and Jockey (no. 25/no. 35),
Edgar Degas, modeled c. 1888-1890. Bronze.
Collection Museu de Arte de São Paulo, Brazil.
© 2002 International Arts, TN.
Photo: Pierre-Alain Ferrazzini

Discussion-Demonstrations

These informal programs take place in the exhibition Degas in Bronze and are included with exhibition admission.

Creating Figural Sculptures

Neil Borowicz, artist and exhibition designer, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art
Gain a deeper understanding of Degas' working method through this demonstration of how a sculptor works with clay and an armature (support) to create figural works.

Sunday, March 7 & April 4, 1 - 2:30pm

Saturday, May 22, 1 - 2:30pm

Ballet in Degas' Time

Ballet Arizona staff and dancers

Join us for this talk about the history of ballet, with particular discussion of the late 19th century Paris Opera. A dancer will illustrate attire of the time.

Thursday, March 18, 7pm

Drawing People

Michael Petry, artist and owner of PetryArt, Phoenix

Observe an artist in process as he creates pen-and-ink sketches in the gallery. Feel free to ask questions to understand the discipline and creativity involved in drawing the human figure.

Thursdays, March 25, April 22 & May 27, 6:30 - 8pm

Ballet Basics

Ballet Arizona staff and dancers

Understand what Degas was trying to capture in this family-friendly presentation about the basics of ballet positions, terminology and methods of study. Dancers will illustrate this presentation and offer comparison for Degas' studies.

Sunday, April 25, 1pm

Studio Picnics at Ballet Arizona

Studio Picnics with Ballet Arizona

Ballet Arizona, 3645 East Indian School Road

Visit the studios of Ballet Arizona for a lunchtime program that includes viewing a rehearsal, facility tour, lunch and a presentation by a member of the dance company. Participants provide their own transportation. Space is limited to 12 persons (adults only) per session. Pre-registration is required, call 602-257-2178.

Thursdays, March 18, April 29 or May 20, 11:30am - 12:45pm

Fee: \$10 per person

Art Classes for Adults and Children

These art classes will be offered in conjunction with Degas in Bronze and all include a visit to the exhibition. Pre-registration is required; call (602) 257-2178.

Life Drawing in the Gallery for Adults

Teacher: Marlys Kubicek

Students will work in the exhibition gallery with a model in a leotard and with Museum visitors present. A teacher is available for assistance. Easels and boards will be provided, but students must bring all other supplies (dry media only). A supply list will be sent in advance of class (approximate cost is \$30).

Saturdays, March 20- April 24 (6 weeks), 2-4pm

Fee: \$70 Museum members; \$80 non-members

Degas Sculpture with Clay for Adults

Teacher: Alan Jones

Students gain inspiration from the exhibition and learn to sculpt from one of Phoenix's renowned ceramic artists.

Saturdays, April 17- May 8 (4 weeks), 9am - 12 Noon

Fee: \$75 Museum members; \$85 non-members

Ceramic Sculpture for Children

Teacher: Alan Jones

Age: 8-12

Children learn clay-sculpting techniques and view the exhibition Degas in Bronze.

Saturdays, April 17 - May 8 (4 weeks), 1- 3pm

Fee: \$70 Museum members; \$75 non-members