

'The modes of expression of men of genius differ as much as their souls'

Auguste Rodin

From the sacred to the profane, the inconsequential to the essential, artists from antiquity to the present day have been beguiled by the challenge of how to convey the expression and movement inherent in life.

One sculptor who understood this challenge was the great sculptor Rodin who said, "The modes of expression of men of genius differ as much as their souls" – this then is an exhibition to celebrate the different approaches artists from different eras, different backgrounds, different cultures and using different medium have confronted the almost insurmountable challenge of translating life into something tangible.

*Expressive Souls* explores the varied approach of artists to produce something that captures in a comprehendible way the very complex and transient nature of our world – and in doing so creates a thing of beauty in and of itself.

Alessandro Algardi (1595-1654)

Saint Michael vanquishing Lucifer

Bronze

53.5cm high

Circa 1660-1680

"A sculpture of great dynamism and emotional power.

Dispensing with the Archangel's wings, and accentuating the movement, the flames, and the flowing hair, Algardi offers not only a piece of counter-reformation religious iconography, but also more essentially, an existential struggle between two men."





Sir Stanley Spencer (1891- 1959)

John Donne arriving in Heaven

Pencil, pen and ink wash
30.5cm by 33.5cm

1911

"Death, be not proud, though some have called thee Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so; For those, whom thou think'st thou dost overthrow, Die not, poor Death, nor yet canst thou kill me. From rest and sleep, which but thy picture[s] be, Much pleasure, then from thee much more must flow, And soonest our best men with thee do go, Rest of their bones, and soul's delivery. Thou'rt slave to Fate, chance, kings, and desperate men, And dost with poison, war, and sickness dwell, And poppy, or charms can make us sleep as well, And better than thy stroke; why swell'st thou then? One short sleep past, we wake eternally, And Death shall be no more; Death, thou shalt die."

- John Donne, Death be not Proud

George Minne (1886-1941)

The Prodigal Son

Silver-patinated plaster

57.5 cm high

Conceived 1896, cast in artist's life-time

'The Prodigal Son transcends the purely narrative and momentary idea of reconciliation. Instead, this is a spiritual experience, two bodies together, emaciated, entwined, in which an insoluble union is experienced, bringing together Eros and Thanatos, love and death — a truly Symbolist idea.'







Auguste Rodin (1840 - 1917)

Caryatid

Plaster
40 by 32 by 30 cm

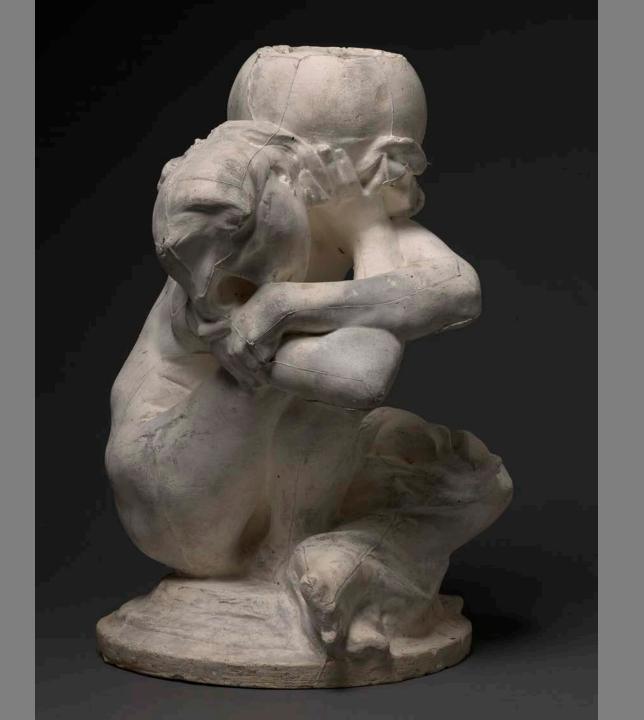
1885-6, this plaster executed

1886

The ancient Greek notion of the Caryatid is one of unfaltering commitment, often smiling or blissfully ignorant of the enormity of their task. Here Rodin turns the concept on its head, in which the world-weary figure is all to aware of their fragility and unworthiness of the task at hand.

"It carries, as one carries the impossible in a dream, and cannot find a way out. And despite its weakness, the act of carrying continues...and even when reclining, it will still carry, will go on carrying forever."

-Rodin, on the Caryatid







Algernon Newton (1880-1968)

Summer Storm Clouds

Oil on canvas
60.9 by 91.4 cm

Signed with monogram
1953

Newton's idylls are always threatened...It was his achievement to have painted his own, troubled sense of the history of his times, while seeming to do something far more innocuous."

-Andrew Graham Dixon



Auguste Rodin (1840 - 1917)

Fugit Amor

Bronze

36.8cm high, 45cm long

Conceived before 1887; cast by
the Perzinka foundry, Versaille in
the 1890s

In Fugit Amor two figures desperately strive but fail to embrace, embodying the eternal damnation of Paolo and Francesca, the doomed lovers from Canto V of Dante's Inferno.



Love which takes quick hold in a gentle heart

Seized this man for the heauty of the hoo

Seized this man for the beauty of the body Snatched from me — how it happened galls me!

"Love which pardons no one loved from loving

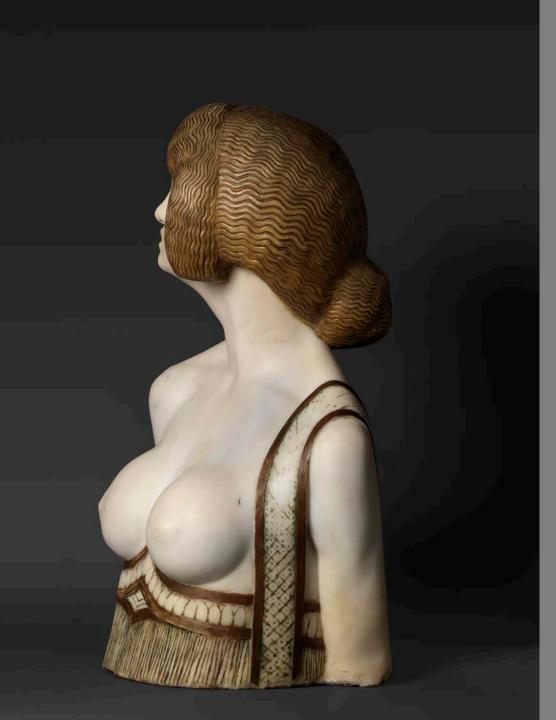
Seized me so strongly with my pleasure in him

That, as you see, it still does not leave me.

"Love led the two of us to a single death: Caina awaits him who snuffed out our lives." These were the words conveyed from them to us

> - Dante Alighieri, Canto V, The Divine Comedy



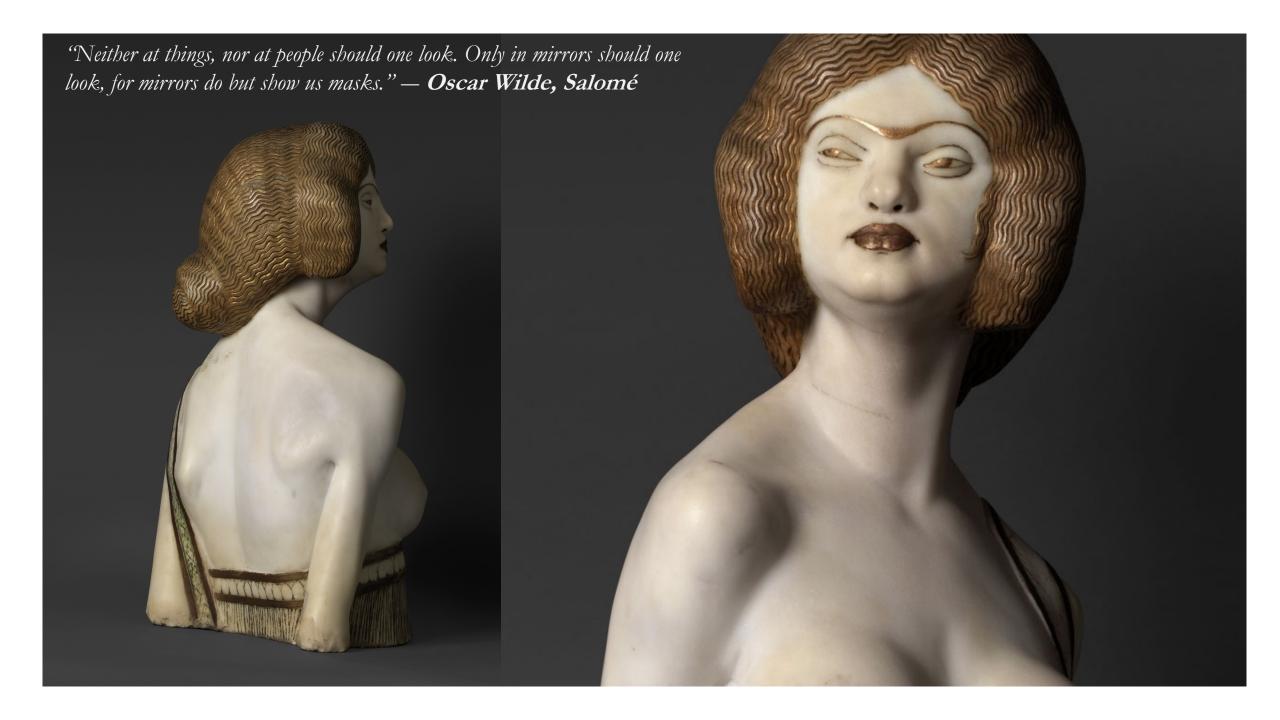


Elsa Kalmàr-Kövesházi (Vienna, 1876-1956) Salome Marble with gilding and polychromy 64 cm 1907

"Ah! ah! wherefore didst thou not look at me? If thou hadst looked at me thou hadst loved me. Well I know that thou wouldst have loved me, and the mystery of Love is greater than the mystery of Death."

— Oscar Wilde, Salomé









Andrea Brustolon (1662 – 1732)

Infant Hercules wrestling a snake

Boxwood

25 cm high

Circa 1690's

Rudolf Koppitz (1884-1936)

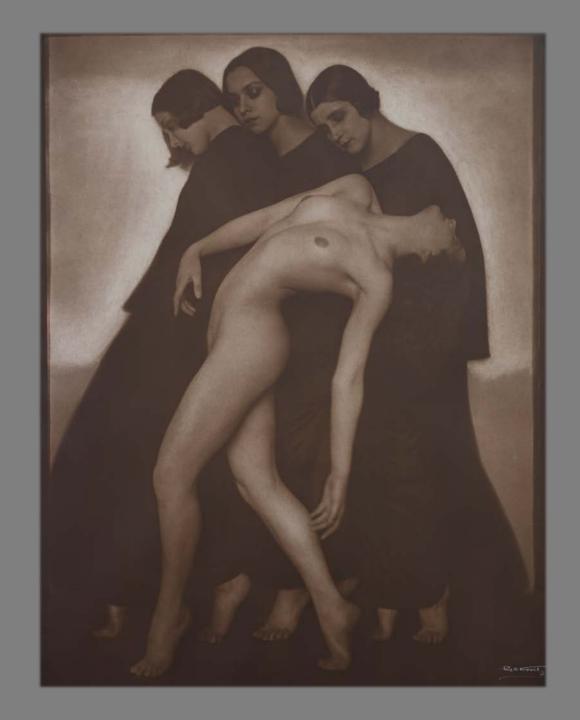
Movement Study

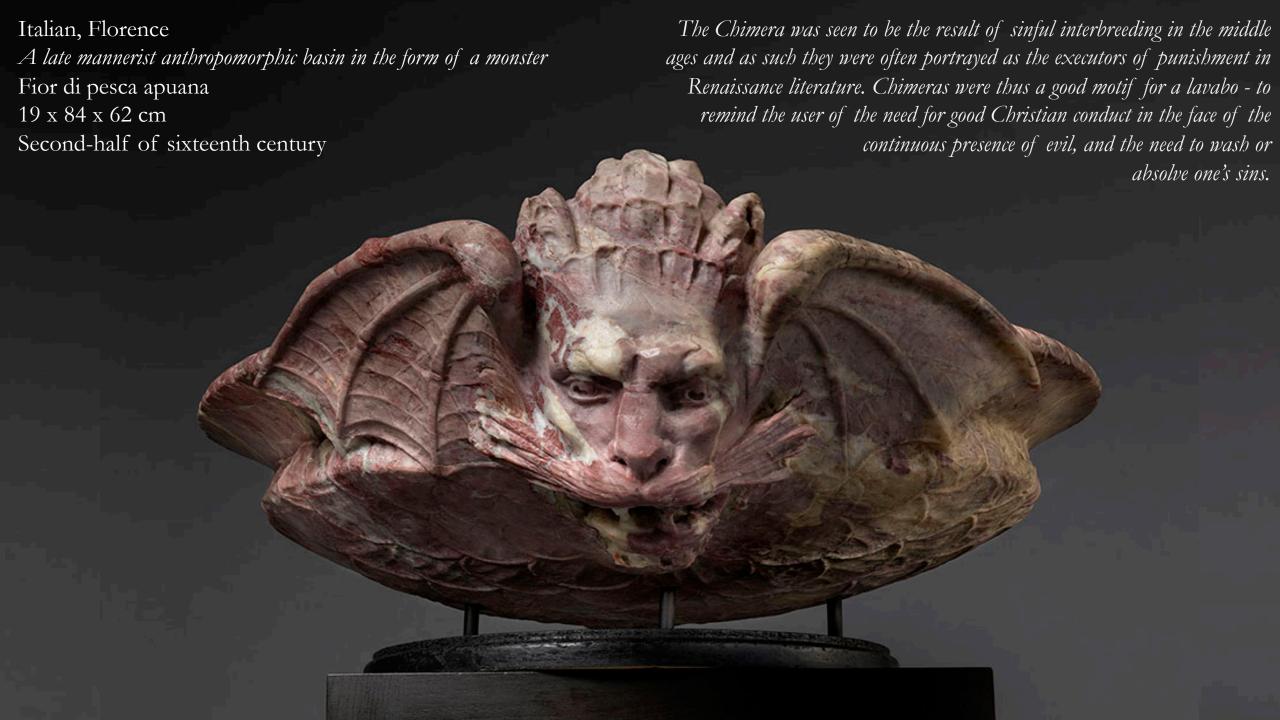
Vintage silver print

57.8 cm by 45.3 cm

1925

Koppitz's celebrated image *Movement Study* is a deep contrast between the hunched and haunting enigmatic figures dressed in black, and the stretched, evocative nude which adds a sense of mystical eroticism.







Jean-Pierre Dantan (1800 – 1869)

La Loge Anglaise

Patinated plaster

23.5 x 36 x 15.5 cm

1834





Achille D'Orsi (1845 – 1929)

Head of a Carter

Marble

98 cm high

Signed on base: Achille D'Orsi

Signed on base: Achille D'Orsi / Napoli

Circa 1879

With the classical formality and colossal size associated with antiquity, D'Orsi portrays the head of a carter or barrow boy. Denoted by his head gear and physiognomy, with a world-weary look and a humble honesty in his eyes. The strength and intensity of gaze suggests someone who knows the daily fatigue but moral dignity of hard labour.

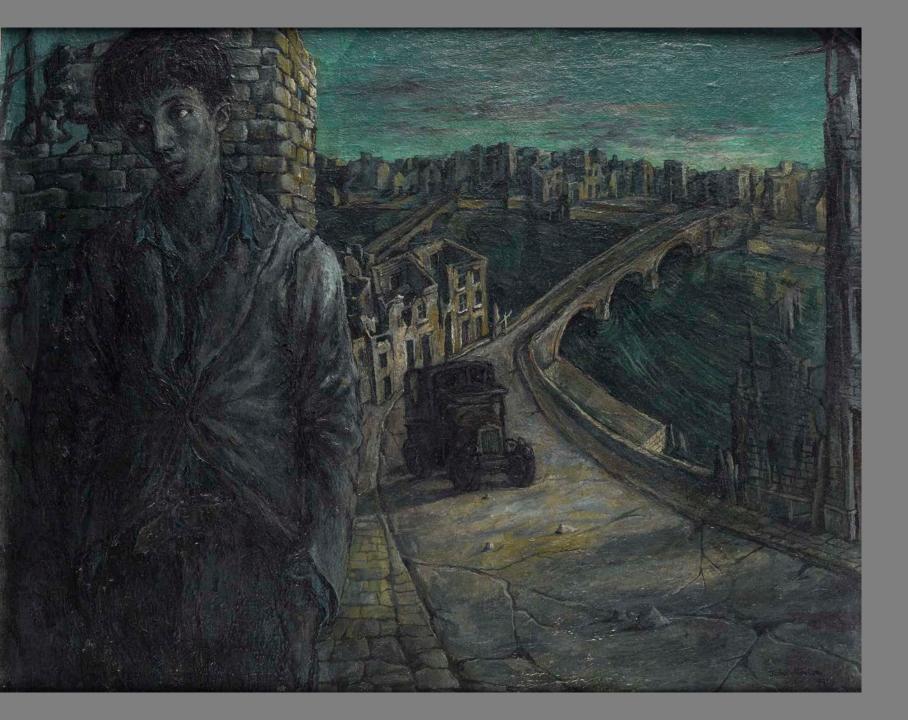
Eric Henry Kennington RA (1888 – 1960) Resurgence Pastel on paper Initialled EHK and dated 43

"Now this is not the end; it is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."

- Winston Churchill on the Allied Victory at El Alamein, Egypt, 1942.

"This powerful and evocative pastel conjures up the spirit of the Crusades in a patriotic work that was inspired by the pivotal Allied victory at El Alamein in Egypt in 1942."





John Minton (1917-1957)

Figure in ruins

Oil on board

41 x 51 cm (16 ½ x 20 in.)

Signed and dated John Minton / Oct.

1941 lower right



"There is nothing contemptible about an intoxicated man (if it is nothing more than a bookful of words or a roomful of notes that he has got drunk on)."

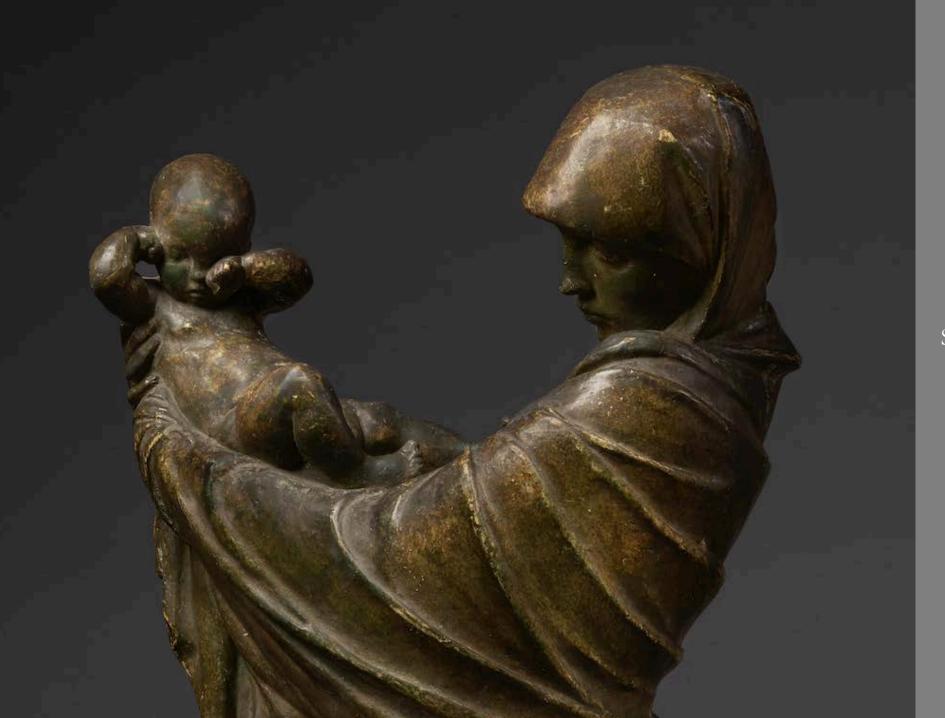
- Wyndham Lewis

Cuthbert Hamilton (1884-1959)

Composition

Watercolour, gouache and pencil on paper 85.1cm by 73.7cm

Signed in pencil lower left: C.F. Hamilton Circa 1913



Sir William Reid Dick (1879-1961)

Madonna and Child

Plaster model

57.1 cm high

1926





Expressive Souls
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