

AUGUSTE RODIN



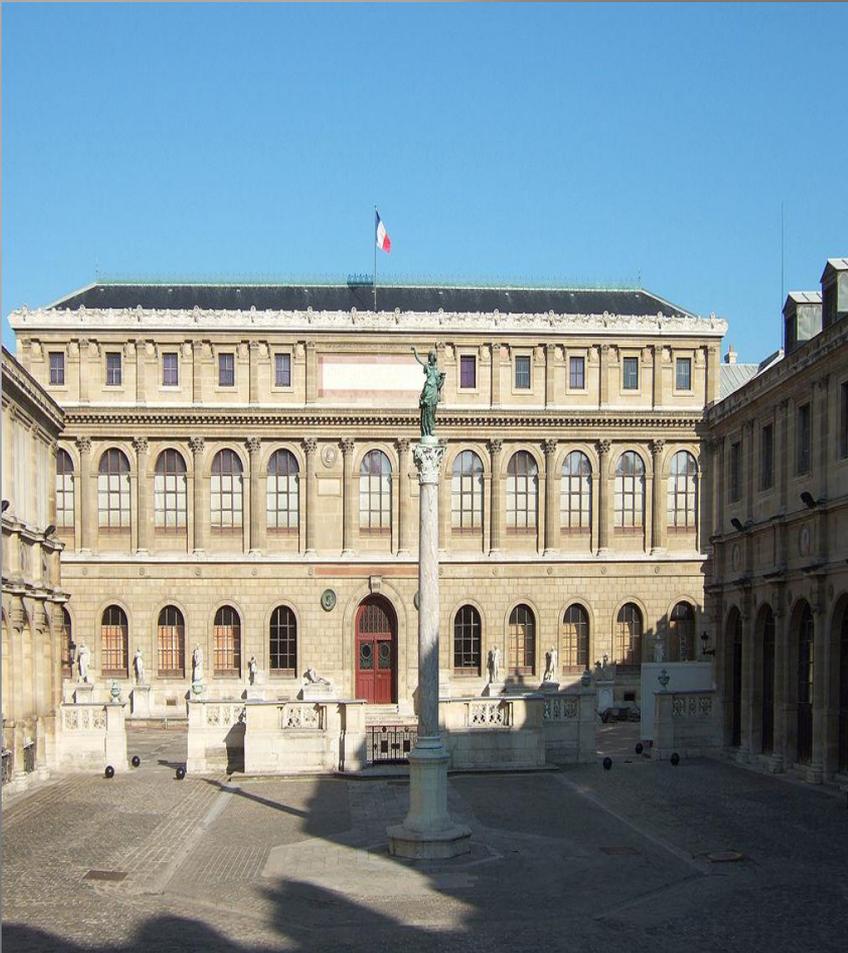
“I choose a block of marble, and chop off whatever I don't need.”

CHILDHOOD

- ▣ Born: November 12th 1840 in Paris.
- ▣ He and his sister Maria had a very unusual relationship.
- ▣ He was very shy, and only showed interest in drawing, and when he turned 13 he dedicated his life to drawing.
- ▣ At 14 he attended Petite Ecole. At this small school he discovered clay and became more interested in it than drawing.



Denied



- ▣ In 1857, Rodin submitted a clay model of a companion to the École des Beaux-Arts in an attempt to win entrance; he did not succeed, and two further applications were also denied.
- ▣ Given that entrance requirements at the Grande École were not particularly high, the rejections were considerable setbacks.

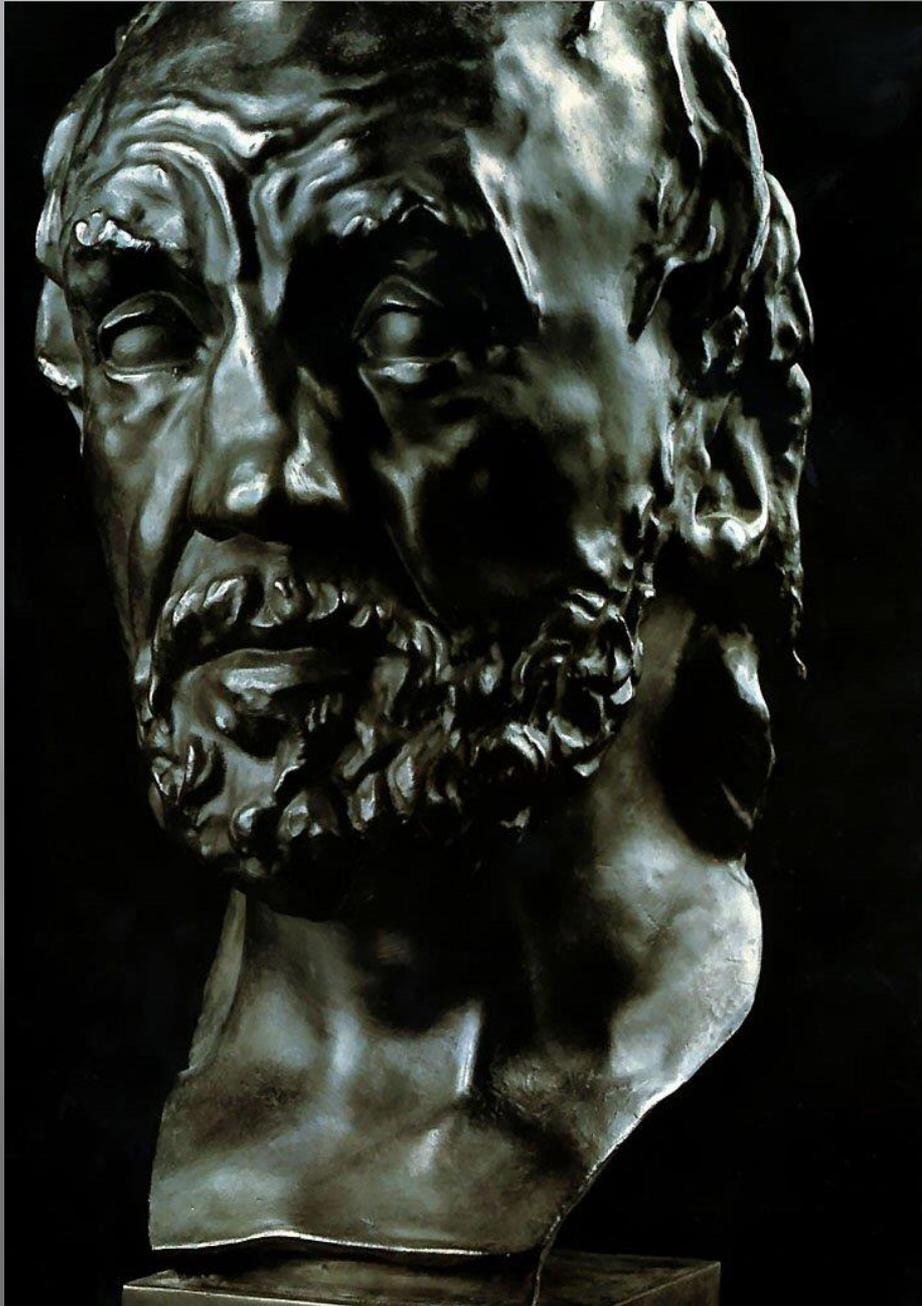
Why Denied?

NEOCLASSICAL



RODIN





“Mask of the Man with the Broken Nose” 1863.

-“there is nothing in nature that is ugly.”

▣ “The Age of Bronze”

- ▣ His first significant sculpture.
- ▣ Accused of casting.
- ▣ “too realistic”
- ▣ 1876 (36 years old)





Rose Beuret



"The Kiss" 1889



Camille Claudel

Rodin had internal conflict between his girlfriend Rose, and the women he met in Italy, Camille. While he was in Italy, Camille was his "mistress" and Rodin made sculptures for and about her. The Kiss was made after Camille.



"Gates of Hell"

Began in 1880 and continued until he died.

depicts a scene from "The Inferno" his favorite play, "The Divine Comedy"

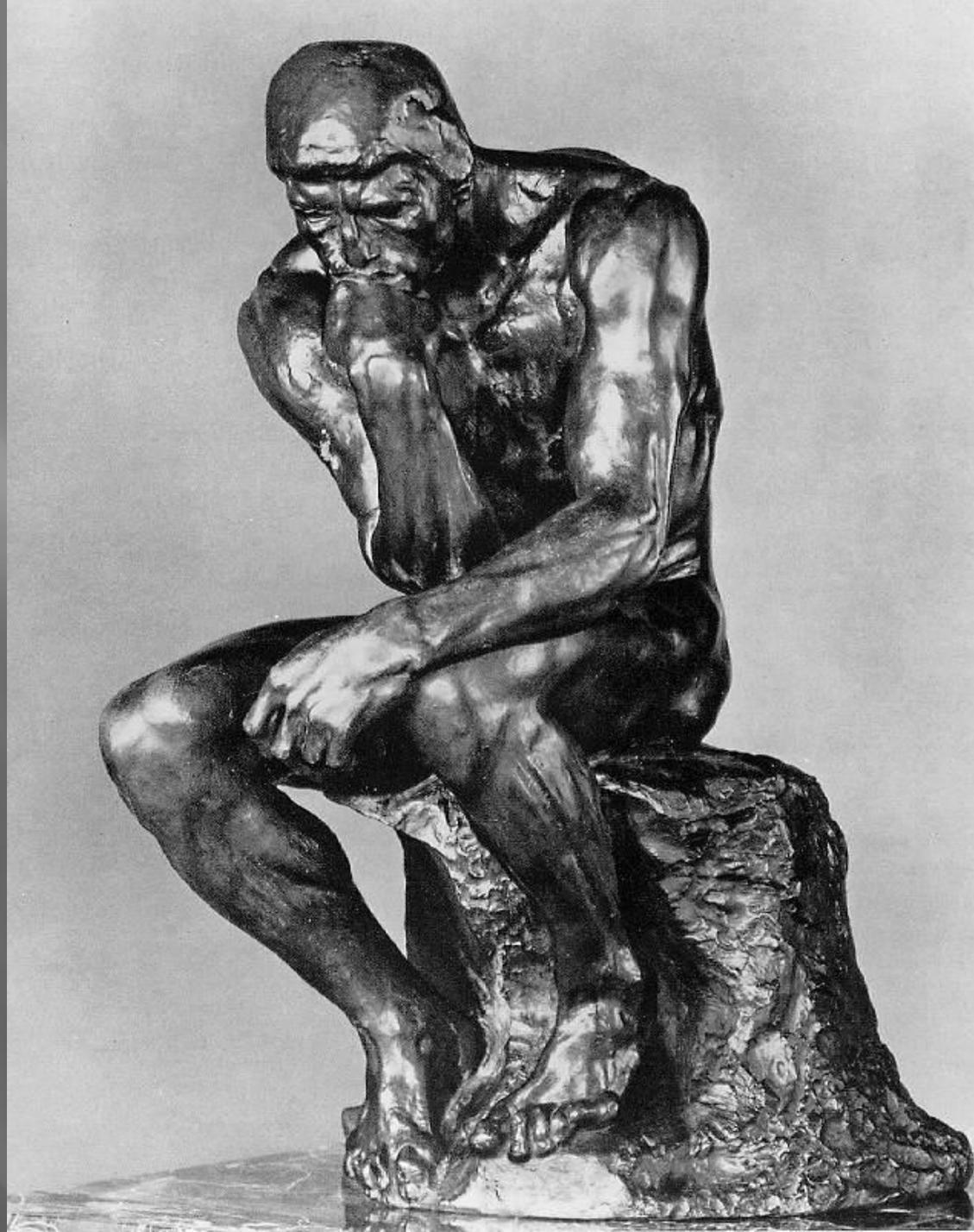


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Peter Barritt

“The Thinker” 1902

Depicts Dante, a character in the play “The Divine Comedy”, pondering and is a representation of philosophy and merges poetry and intellect.





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The Three Shades



Style

- ❑ Rodin was a naturalist, less concerned with monumental expression than with character and emotion.
- ❑ Turned away from the idealism of the Greeks, and the decorative beauty of the Baroque and neo-Baroque movements.
- ❑ Sculpture emphasized the individual and the concreteness of flesh, and suggested emotion through detailed, textured surfaces, and the interplay of light and shadow. To a greater degree than his contemporaries, Rodin believed that an individual's character was revealed by his physical features.



Balzac



ABSTRACT ARTIST BEFORE ABSTRACT MOVEMENT













Modern Sculpture









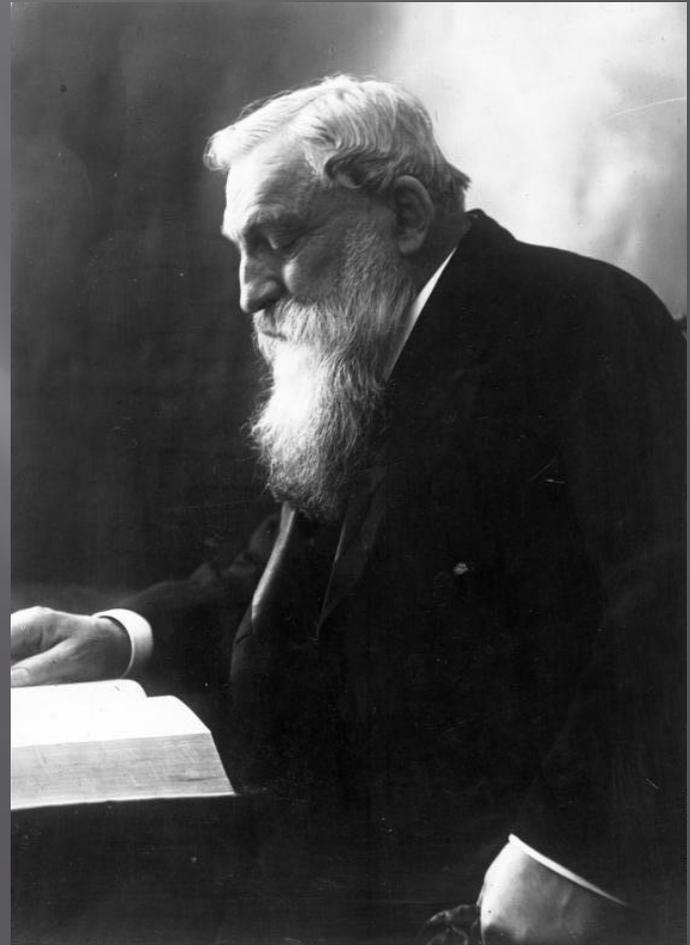
"What is it that sets modern sculptures apart from their predecessors? To suggest that modern sculpture shows a greater preoccupation with plastic first principles is not enough. Modern sculpture is not merely more concerned with plastic form, but with a different kind of form, one answering to a radically new awareness of reality. The forms of contemporary sculpture are unstable and dynamic things; every transient shape implies a history, a growth, an evolution."

"Rodin does belong to [the twentieth-century] because in him, for the first time, we see firm flesh resolve itself into a symbol of perpetual flux. Rodin's anatomy is not the fixed law of each human body but the figurative configuration of a moment."



Last Years

- ▣ By 1900 was the most important sculptor in the world.
- ▣ Married the mother of his only child (Rose Beruet) 2 weeks before her death in 1917.
- ▣ He died in November that year at the age of 77.



Significance

- * Sculpture moved away from the past tradition of telling stories of history, myth, tradition, and literature.
- Auguste Rodin had transformed sculpture into something that today we call modern, that spoke to the artist's and viewer's emotions and imaginations. The stories that were told were often internal and conceptual, and there was no right or wrong way to interpret them.
- Rodin was one of the first artists to insist that part of a figure – such as a torso or a hand – could by itself convey meaning and thus would be a complete work of art
- And by the time Rodin died in 1917 he had – through prodigious talent and a remarkable volume of work – challenged the established styles of his youth and revolutionized sculpture. Today his pioneering work is a crucial link between traditional and modern art.
- His “abstract” work ushered in the modern age of sculpture