

Press Release
Zurich, 8 February 2007

Kunsthhaus Zürich shows 'Rodin' – A Retrospective.

In the late 19th century Auguste Rodin (1840–1917) revolutionised sculpture. From 9 February to 13 May 2007 Kunsthhaus Zürich is showing a retrospective comprising almost 160 bronzes, works in plaster, and drawings – including such renowned pieces as 'The Kiss' and 'The Thinker', but also rarely seen marble sculptures such as 'The Earth and the Moon'.

Rodin was one of the first artists who elevated fragmentation to an artistic principle. When the wider public first saw his work exhibited in Paris in 1889, there was as much astonishment at his dynamic treatment of sculptural surfaces as there was at the fragmentation of the human form and the absence of plinths. The natural, uncontrived postures of his late figures were entirely at odds with the prevailing sculptural ideals that were still in thrall to the traditionally 'acceptable' poses. The innovative, uneven, furrowed surfaces of his forms, so unsettling to the contemporary eye, resulted from Rodin's unique working of the figure's bones, muscles and nerves, which in turn led to a very particular interplay of areas of light and shade.

FROM PRIVATE SKETCHES TO PUBLIC MONUMENTS

This retrospective – positively monumental in its size and scope – has been conceived in close collaboration with the Musée Rodin, Paris, and the Royal Academy of Arts in London. The selected works range from Rodin's production at the time of his 'discovery' in the early 1880s by a group of writers and artists to his ground-breaking designs for public memorials and monuments.

THE THINKER, THE KISS, THE GATES OF HELL

Visitors coming to the Kunsthhaus are already greeted outside by the 6.80-metre high 'Gates of Hell' – a doorway inspired by Dante's 'Divine Comedy' which Rodin continued to work on as long as he lived. For this piece – which was to remain unfinished – Rodin created 186 small figures, some of which he also executed as separate sculptures: witness his outstanding piece, 'The Thinker', which represents Dante Alighieri, whom Rodin greatly admired. This work, in its monumental version, was the first of his sculptures to be installed in a public space. It forms the heart of this exhibition which also includes other magnificent pieces such as 'The Burghers of Calais' and 'Victor Hugo'. The loans – some of them very rarely seen large-format sculptures and original plaster casts – come from leading international collections. With its numerous sculptures, drawings,

photographs and other documents, the exhibition will take the viewer on a journey into Rodin's life and work.

THE QUEST FOR RECOGNITION

Rodin's striving for success was legendary. He was constantly seeking understanding and backing for his art, hoping for recognition from politicians, the aristocracy and the wider public. Ninety years after his death all this and more is his. Generations of sculptures have been crucially influenced by his work and it is studied at every level of art education.

A GENEROUS EXHIBITION CONCEPT

In their pursuit of the artist who took sculpture down from its pedestal and captivated the bourgeoisie of his day, visitors will have the chance to peruse almost 160 bronzes, works in plaster and coloured drawings distributed through 1,300 square metres of exhibition space. In this generously laid out presentation by Curator Christoph Becker, the open, modern architecture of the Kunsthaus offers the viewer both longer vistas and more intimate close-ups of the work, creating connections between different periods of the artist's work. Audio guides provide in-depth information on the works themselves in several different languages and at no extra cost to the visitor.

The exhibition catalogue (published by Hatje Cantz, 320 pages) includes profoundly informative essays by Catherine Lampert and Antoinette Le Normand-Romain. With over 360 reproductions of Rodin's work, the catalogue also provides the reader with additional facts and sketches relevant to his life. It is available at the Kunsthaus Shop for CHF 65.– or online at www.kunsthaus.ch/shop.

A contribution to culture by Credit Suisse – Partner of the Kunsthaus Zürich.

GENERAL INFORMATION / GUIDED TOURS / ADVANCED SALES

Kunsthaus Zürich, Heimplatz 1, CH-8001 Zurich

Tel. +41 (0)44 253 84 84, www.kunsthaus.ch

Opening times: Tues–Thurs 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Fri–Sun 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Closed on Mondays

Admission fee including audio guide: CHF 17.– / 11.– concessions. Groups of 20 or more: CHF 13.– per head.

Guided tours

Public: Tues 12.15 p.m., Wed 6.30 p.m., Fri 3 p.m., Sun 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Private (by arrangement): 60 minutes, for groups of 20 or more, in German CHF 175.– and in French, English or Italian CHF 200.–.

Bookings may be made by calling Tel. +41 (0)44 253 84 84 (Mon–Fri 9 a.m.–12 noon).

Groups or classes with their own guides are urgently advised to register in advance, otherwise waiting periods have to be expected.

Advanced Ticket Sales

Switzerland: Kombi-Ticket RailAway/SBB with 20% reduction on rail travel and admission to the exhibition available at SBB rail stations and by phoning Rail Service on 0900 300 300 (CHF 1.19/min.).

Other Sales Points

Switzerland: Magasins Fnac, Tel. +33 1 4157 3212, www.fnac.ch

France: Magasins Fnac, Carrefour, Tel. 0892 684 694 (0.34 €/min.), www.fnac.com

Belgium: Magasins Fnac, Tel. 0 900 00 600 (0.45 €/min.), www.fnac.be

Hotels and restaurants

Zürich Tourismus, www.zuerich.com

Kunsthausestaurant, www.kunsthausestaurant.ch

For further information and visual materials, please contact

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Rodin

Kunsthaus Zürich

9. Februar bis 13. Mai 2007



Auguste Rodin
La Défense (Die Verteidigung), 1879
Bronze, 114.3 x 58.5 x 40 cm
NGS, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art,
Edinburgh
Foto © The National Gallery of Scotland,
Edinburgh/Antonia Reeve



Auguste Rodin
Jean d'Aire (Aktstudie zu den Bürgern
von Calais), 1889
Bronze, 205 x 68 x 67 cm
Kunsthaus Zürich
Leihgabe des Kantons Zürich, 1949



Auguste Rodin
L'homme qui marche (Schreitender Mann),
ca. 1900
Bronze, 85.2 x 60 x 28.5 cm
Musée Bourdelle, Paris
Foto © Eric Emo



Auguste Rodin
La petite ombre (Der kleine Schatten),
gegossen 1902-1913
Bronze, 31.5 x 14.42 x 11.1 cm
Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge
Leihgabe Miss Vanessa Nicolson
Foto © Fitzwilliam Museum, University
of Cambridge



Auguste Rodin
L'homme au nez cassé (Mann mit
gebrochener Nase), 1863-64
Bronze, 31.1 x 18.4 x 18.4 cm
Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of
Design, Providence
Geschenk von Mrs. Gustav Radeke
Foto © Erik Gould



Auguste Rodin
Tête de Pierre de Wissant (Kopf von
Pierre de Wissant), ca. 1885/86
Gips, 48 x 28.2 x 28.5 cm
Musée Rodin, Paris/Meudon
Foto © Musée Rodin/Adam Rzepka



Auguste Rodin
Lady Sackville, 1914-16
Marmor, 57 x 75 x 57 cm
Musée Rodin, Paris/Meudon
Foto © Musée Rodin/Adam Rzepka



Auguste Rodin
Buste de Victor Hugo (Buste von
Victor Hugo), 1911
Bronze, 92 x 60 x 54 cm
Manchester Art Gallery
Foto © Manchester Art Gallery



Auguste Rodin
Torso d'Adèle (Torso der Adèle), 1878
Terrakotta, 11 x 37.5 x 16.4 cm
Musée Rodin, Paris/Meudon
Foto © Musée Rodin/Christian Baraja



Auguste Rodin
Deux petites torses d'Iris avec jambe
gauche pliée (Zwei kleine Torsi der Iris
mit angewinkeltem linken Bein), o.J.
Gips, 23.8 x 19.1 x 13.2 cm
Musée Rodin, Paris/Meudon
Foto © Musée Rodin/Adam Rzepka
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Auguste Rodin
La Terre et la Lune (Die Erde und der Mond),
ca. 1898-99
Marmor, 120 x 68.5 x 63.5 cm
National Museum and Galleries of Wales,
Cardiff
Foto © National Museums and Galleries of
Wales, Cardiff



Auguste Rodin
Le Baiser (Der Kuss), ca. 1881-82
Gips, 86 x 51.5 x 55.5 cm
Musée Rodin, Paris/Meudon
Foto © Musée Rodin/Adam Rzepka



Auguste Rodin
La Porte de l'Enfer (Das Höllentor),
1880-1917
Bronze, 680 x 400 x 85 cm
Kunsthaus Zürich



Auguste Rodin
Le Penseur (Der Denker)
Detail aus dem Höllentor, 1880-1917
Bronze
Kunsthaus Zürich



Auguste Rodin
La Charité (Die Barmherzigkeit), ca. 1880
Feder und Deckfarbe auf sandfarbenem Papier
12 x 11.1 cm
Leihgabe Syndics of the Fitzwilliam Museum,
Cambridge
Foto © Fitzwilliam Museum, University of
Cambridge



Walter Henry Barnett
Portrait des Künstlers, ca. 1905
Gelatin Silberabzug/Papier, 19.7 x 14.7 cm
Hunterian Museum and Art Gallery,
University of Glasgow
Foto © Hunterian Museum and Art Gallery,
University of Glasgow