

Press release
October 2018

POSE AND VARIATIONS SCULPTURE IN PARIS IN THE AGE OF RODIN

CALOUSTE GULBENKIAN MUSEUM, LISBON
26 OCTOBRE 2018 – 04 FEBRUARY 2019

The winter exhibition of the Calouste Gulbenkian Museum opens to the public on 26 October and features a magnificent collection of timeless sculptures assembled by two notable art collectors: Carl Jacobsen (1842-1914), founder of Carlsberg breweries, and Calouste Sarkis Gulbenkian (1869-1955).

A central artist of this exhibition, Rodin was active at the same time as other great sculptors such as Jean-Antoine Houdon, Aimé-Jules Dalou, Paul Dubois, Jean-Baptiste Carpeaux, Edgar Degas and Denys-Pierre Puech. With three dozen mostly late 19th-century sculptures from the collections of Carl Jacobsen and Calouste Sarkis Gulbenkian, this new exhibition brings together all of these artists to examine the pose in French sculpture.

The general concept of the exhibition looks at the pose through sculptures from the two collections, grouping together related pieces and reflecting on standard poses that were tackled by French artists in the early stages of their training. This approach is also intended to reveal the way in which the nine artists represented in the exhibition adopted and adapted certain poses in their creations, sometimes distancing – themselves from the prevailing canons, sometimes taking a personal path based on academic learning.

The two sculpture collections, in Copenhagen and Lisbon, are surprisingly closely related, not just in terms of the artist and their subject, but more particularly, in terms of the variations in scale and material of the very same piece. This means that their dialogue is close to the subject of sculpture itself: its continuities and variations, expressed through different choices in relation to size and material.

The sculptures speak to each other across the poses which they adopt. They echo themes and reveal variations. In this they speak both of long-held classical models, and of the contemporary life class, while on occasion breaking free of academic convention, and posing the body in unexpectedly liberated ways.

The theme will be explored across five different sections, with inspiration for the ubiquitous representation of the human figure found in both timeless classical mythology and in more realistic or intimate interpretations.

The exhibition is jointly organised by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and the Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek in Copenhagen, where it will be hosted next year.

POSE AND VARIATIONS

Sculpture in Paris in the Age of Rodin

Curators: Luísa Sampaio and Rune Frederiksen

Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation

Main Gallery

26 October - 4 February 2019

Open daily from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

Close on Tuesdays