

Jean-Baptiste CARPEAUX (1827-1875)

LES TROIS GRÂCES (1874)

Bacchant with ivy, Bacchant with roses and Bacchante with laurel.
Bronze, richly dark brown patina with Imperial Eagle seal.

H : 80,1 cm, L : 48,3 cm, D : 40 cm

Lifetime example signed «JB Carpeaux», old studio edition with the «Propriété Carpeaux» seal – beautiful example.

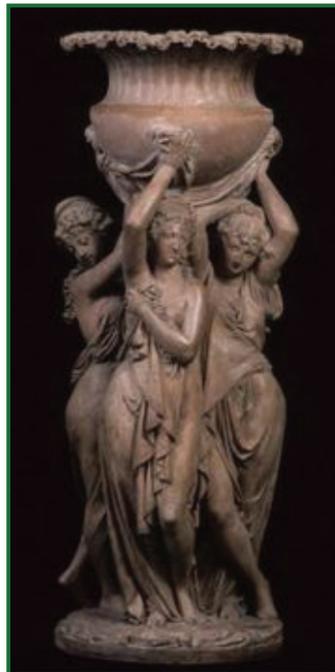
Circa : 1875



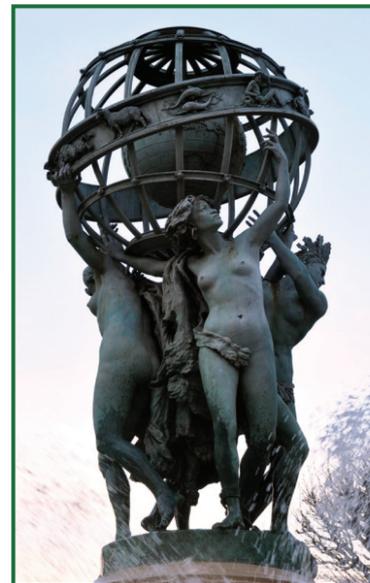
Trois Grâces, Gumery, Bordeaux.

The *Trois Grâces*, also known as « La Danse », are a half size composition of the three main bacchants from the high relief carved by Carpeaux for the Opera Garnier's front. The group caused a scandal in 1869, by its licentious gesture. The three bacchants, bearing crowns of ivy, laurels and roses are dancing in a circular way with a Flemish atmosphere which contrasts with the Grace and perfection which made it renown from the artist lifetime and as an iconic model in the Sculpture History. Except this pleasant aspect, this composition has a balance dynamism, as a French characteristic remaining in the sculptor's œuvre.

This arrangement, close to the one of the *Fontaine de l'Observatoire* set in 1874, was not mainly produced during the artist's lifetime or even after his death. Probably, the cost of marble, the complexity of moulding for bronze cast or terra cotta kilning led the studio to give it up quickly.



Trois Grâces, Carrier Belleuse, Santa Barbara Museum of Art



Fontaine de l'Observatoire

