

Aimé-Jules DALOU (1838-1902)

set on either side of the motive. In the background is visible an obelisk, symbol of Power and Inspiration on which stands out a winged allegory seen from three-quarters, the Glory of the speaker.

Our sketch is a first approach to this last figure, where Dalou studies the torsion of the body to determine the most appropriate gesture, head down for a better angle of vision, left arm raised to hold a torch of Fame, as we can see in an advanced plaster version kept at the Petit Palais. The absence of arms and feet in our version, as well as its flat modelling on a support, make this subject very modern, reminding, if it wasn't a feminine figure, a study for a crucifixion.

The subject appears in a contract of edition of Hébrard with the heirs of the sculptor in July 1907. Its unfinished nature has undoubtedly contributed to rarity of casts.



Dalou, *Lion rugissant accompagné d'un enfant*, Paris, Pont Alexandre III.

***LION DU PONT ALEXANDRE III***

Sketch, child with a garland (1898)

Group on an architectural base (Paris-left bank)

Bronze, red brown patina

H : 23,6 cm, L : 18,7 cm, D : 9,2 cm

Model signed "Dalou", cast and edited by "A.A. Hébrard Cire Perdue", inscribed "M" for model (wax restorations on few parts).

**Circa 1910**

*Museum reference :*

*Paris, Petit Palais, wax and plaster, inv. PPS265*

The Pont Alexandre III, celebrating the union of the French and Russian nations, was designed for the Universal Exhibition of 1900. Dalou was commissioned to create two allegorical beasts in 1898, to decorate the piles on the left bank, alongside Georges Gardet who received the lions from the right bank. It was specified in the commission contracts that lions must be in the taste of Louis XIV, a pivotal period in Franco-Russian relations, with the Golden Age of Peter the Great. The lions, which represent imperial power, are crowned by putti with laurel garlands of Fame.

Our sketch corresponds to an intermediate step of the group installed on its architectural pedestal for a final rendering, with coat of arms on the front part. The bronze was cast from the wax sketch kept at the Petit Palais. Some details, especially in the mane and garland were restored with brown tinted wax. This is the only example of this version group with pedestal in bronze currently identified.



Dalou, *Lion rugissant accompagné sur son flanc gauche d'un putto*, wax and plaster, Paris, Petit Palais, inv. PPS265.



Dalou, *Lion rugissant accompagné sur son flanc gauche d'un putto*, terracotta, Paris, Petit Palais, inv. PPS202.

