

Cecil HOWARD (1888-1956)



TIREUSE A L'ARC (1926-1928)

Beige Chassagne stone, *H: 91.5 cm, L: 43.2 cm, D: 18 cm*

Artist example signed «Howard».

Circa: 1928-1932

This model reproduced in *Illustration* 20 octobre 1928
(another example?).

Reproduced in "Cecil Howard, un américain à Paimpol (2009)
(our example)

And two bronzes examples currently known.

Cecil Howard was born at Niagara Falls on April 2nd in 1888, he had english parents who set up in Buffalo two years later. In 1895, he became American. In 1905, he came in Paris in the Montparnasse neighbourhood and joined the Académie Julien. He soon met R. Bugatti, with who he went to Anvers where he created animal sculptures.

But he quickly let animal sculpture to study nude figures and portraits. In 1913, he carved a lifelike dimensions figure depicting Lucy Trogh, Pascin's partner. In 1911, he met his wife, Céline Coujet.

At the beginning of the First World War, he was hired in the Red Cross Association before going back to USA in 1915, then to France in 1916 where he met G. Apollinaire and the main cubist artists of this time. Then he created 995 plaster figures strongly influenced by this movement and mainly by Robert and Sonia Delaunay.

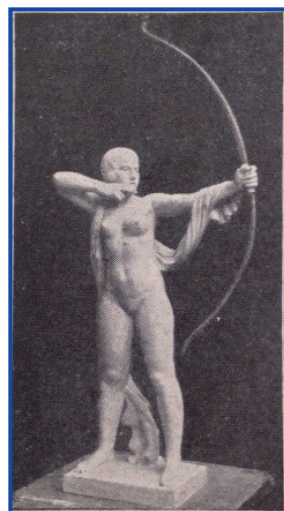
From 1920, Cecil Howard was interested in a more classical kind of sculpture, under the influence of his friend, Charles Despiau. He mostly worked on nude sculpture, female as well as male, of athletes in motion, which are often exhibited at the SNBA, the Salon des Tuileries, the Salon d'Automne and moreover in USA where Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney bought the main part of his production. He practiced direct carve and the modelling to make his bronzes.

After being present in France for 35 years, he went back to USA in 1941 in New York. He was hired again in the Red Cross during the Second World War.

Fascinated by archery, Howard took part in the Final of the French Archery Championships in 1927 at Chauny and got the 4th rank. He accepted after that to pose for illustrating an article by G. de Knyff, titled « Le noble jeu de l'arc », published in the issue of *L'Illustration* from October 20th in 1928. It is then possible to observe the sculptor, ready to loose his arrow, exactly in the same gesture as our sculpture, *Tireuse à l'arc*, which is also reproduced in this issue.

This model, created around the period of the championships, reminds us the mythological theme of Diane chasseresse, nude figure with a fine drapery on her shoulder and along her left arm. It gives some lightness to the figure who seems concentrated. The bow is made of wood. A great strength is expressed by this model which glorifies female nudity.

The gesture and the treatment remind perfectly the 1930s's Spirit and the Art Déco period, especially on the figure's face.



La Tireuse d'arc,
par Cecil de B. Howard.

Picture from the article in *L'Illustration*,
october 1928.

