

Auguste RODIN (1840-1917)

***MAIN DE DIEU (before 1905)***

Reduction of the large marble moulding.

Bronze, *H : 15,5 cm, L : 16,7 cm, D : 15,2 cm*

Authentic example by the Rodin museum signed «A.Rodin»,  
«A.Rudier. fondeur.Paris» mark and inside relief seal «A.Rodin»

**Cast in 1943**

Comité Rodin inclusion advice :

*Provenance :*

*Former Eugène Rudier collection.*

*One of both examples cast in 1943, included in the 5  
examples identified of this version*

The *Main de Dieu* is a plaster assembly from 1895 of the right hand from a *Bourgeois de Calais*, Pierre Wissant and a couple coming out from the material. The artist is at the climax of his art and keeps an astonishing number of pieces (fragments and small models) that will increase by this technic.

Moreover, while he began what is called “the production decade”, during which he played on dimensions and materials, Rodin wish a first life size marble example of the subject (before 1905). Then, from this first marble, he conceived a half size reduction – mechanical reduction without practitioner intervention – for a bronze edition in this dimension, including our example.

«Main de Dieu», «Main du créateur», it could be seen symbolically as the sculptor’s hand, while Rodin is successful, considered as the greatest artist of his time.

About the edition, the model was only executed in 5 examples. Ours is special, for it was achieved by Eugène Rudier, favourite founder of Rodin and it comes from his own personal collection.

After 1917, Eugène Rudier was at once founder and dealer of Rodin’s artworks, buying bronzes at the Hotel Drouot to sold those again. He was also collector, mostly of bronzes cast by himself, which are always fine quality casts.



*Main de Dieu*, marble, Paris,  
Musée Rodin.



