



UDB

UNIVERS DU BRONZE

Exhibition at BRAFA 26
January 25 – February 1, 2026
STAND 74

Press kit



Stand 74

After the success of the exhibition « F. Pompon | Le Mouvement et la Forme », a set of about forty pieces by the Burgundian master, especially at the publication of the new catalogue raisonné, UDB is delighted to announce its participation in BRAFA Art fair 26, from January 25 to February 1st. For this edition, we have selected in our collections some masterpieces from 19th to the 20th centuries as well as several contemporary pieces.

The original wax model of the *Éléphant d'Asie* by **Antoine-Louis Barye**, in its display case made for the retrospective exhibition in 1889 at the Fine Arts School in Paris. Original plasters, closest possible pieces to the artist's hands, are very rare on the market, most of those being in international museum's collections at the MET or at the Louvre.

The transition to Modernity will be embodied by the work of Meudon Master, **Auguste Rodin**, with an exceptional example of the penultimate model of the *Tête de Balzac*, early cast by Griffoul circa 1890, with a nervous casting, a remarkable linen effect, from the covering of the sketch in Rodin's creative process.

An other contemporary of Rodin, **Bourdelle** offers us a head of *Beethoven à la colonne* with a particular story. We have the letters between the sculptor and the patron of this work, the journalist and essayist Henriette Charasson. This young woman is then the author of the *Jules Tellier* that was admired by Bourdelle, as it is pointed out in his letters. From the same period and in a symbolist vein, an elegant marble by **Naoum Aronson**. This Belarusian sculptor worked in Paris during the 1900s and is considered for the quality of his direct carves in particular in marble and stone, as here a marble of Thasos.

A beautiful selection of animal models from the 1930s whose highlight will be this *Jaguar accroupi* by **Rembrandt Bugatti**, a lifetime cast by Hébrard.

The scenography of this 2026 edition will leave great space to furniture and design, with the presentation of armchairs by **Jean-Marie Fiori**, with antique references.

Well known to our belgian collectors, **Jivko** will show his latest version of a ceremonial console representing a heron hunting among water lilies, with great lightness.

Finally, the Gallery will be pleased to present a selection of subjects by the exhibition designer **Hubert le Gall**, with playful and animal subject furnitures.

The UDB selection will show an overview of sculptures from the 19th to 20th centuries with an approach of museum quality and decorative aesthetic.



**Antoine-Louis BARYE (1795-1875)
ÉLÉPHANT D'ASIE**

Possibly in pair with "Éléphant d'Afrique". Model from the catalogue published in 1857.

Original plaster with wax retouches from the Barye sale in 1876.

H : 13,1 cm, L : 18,5 cm, D : 6,9 cm

Model for the bronzes.

Provenance : former H.Brame collection (artist after death sale in 1876), retrospective exhibition at the Fine Arts School in 1889 (N°631, Madame G...)

Circa 1857

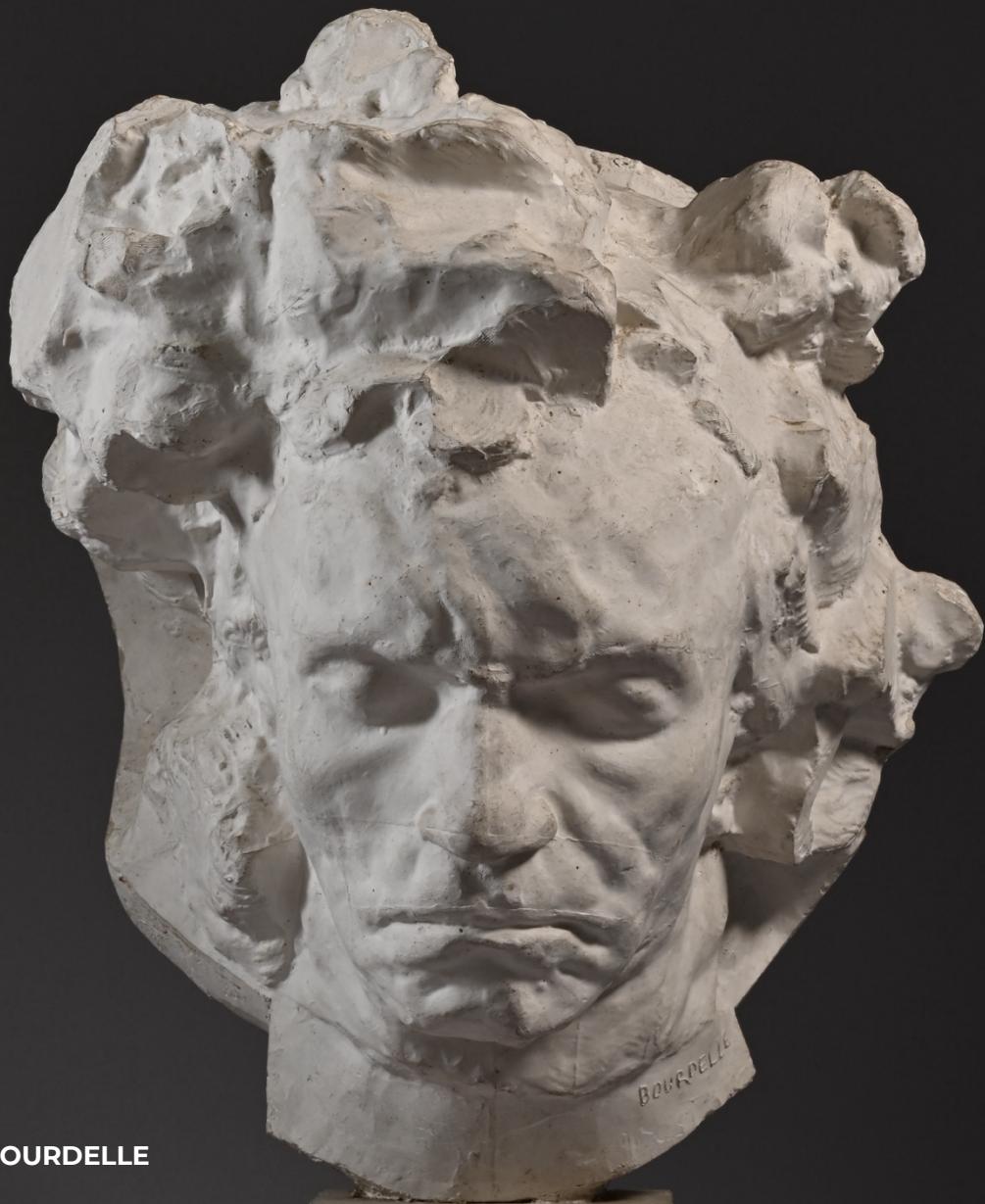


Auguste RODIN (1840-1917)
BALZAC (tête) penultimate state
As known as "Variante S1652"

Bronze, richly shaded green brown patina
H : 19,4 cm, L : 18,5 cm, D : 18,2 cm

Lifetime cast signed "A Rodin", sand cast probably by Auguste Griffoul; at least eleven casts currently listed, including seven in museum collections with the one at the Rodin museum.

Cast circa 1897-1903



Emile-Antoine BOURDELLE

(1861-1929)

BEETHOVEN À LA COLONNE

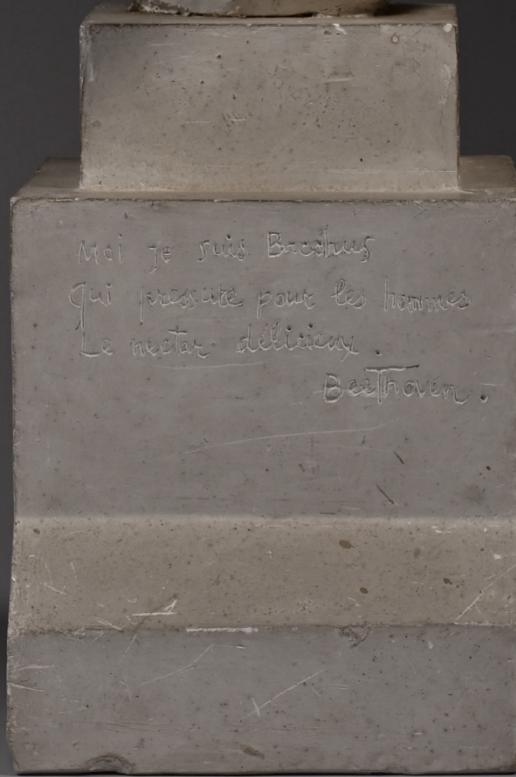
aux yeux fermés (1901)

Studio plaster as "à bon creux"
signed in relief "Bourdelle" in the
mould.

H : 62,4 cm, L : 32 cm, D : 28,3 cm

Artist example detailed on the front
in autograph writing "Moi, je suis
Bacchus... le nectar délicieux,
Beethoven", dedicated on the base
on the left "A Mlle Henriette
Charasson, très sympathiquement,
E.A.Bourdelle", example reworked by
him (with letters from the sculptor
to the patron).

Cast in 1910





Naoum Lvoivch ARONSON (1872-1943)

ÈVE (1910)

Marble, probably dolomitic from the greek island of Thasos

H : 79,2 cm, L : 21,8 cm, D : 24,5 cm

Artist carve signed "n.aronson" on the left side of the rock.

Circa 1910?



**Rembrandt BUGATTI (1884-1916)
PETIT JAGUAR MARCHANT (1911)**

Bronze, richly dark black brown patin
H : 17,4 cm, L : 36,8 cm, P : 9,8 cm

Authentic example from the original edition signed "R.Bugatti", old cast and edition by "A.A Hébrard cire perdue » (seal), numbered "(8) » from an edition at 10 examples.

Provenance: Mr. Manuel [n°INV.3226]
Cast between 1919 and 1922



**Jean-Marie FIORI (Born in 1952)
FAUTEUIL DARIUS EN PAIRE (2019)**

Bronze, shaded black patina, fabric arms and seat by Pierre Frey.

H : 98,5 cm, L : 67 cm, D : 58 cm

Each armchair signed "Jean Marie Fiori" in a square on the circled strut, cast by "De-royaume fondeur -GD" (seal), one numbered "5A/24", the other "5B/24".

Cast in 2025



**JIVKO (born in 1963)
CONSOLE AU HERON ET NENUPHARS**

Bronze, shaded light brown green patina.

H : 90 cm, L : 115 cm, D : 30 cm

Artist example signed "Jivko", numbered "1/1".

Cast in 2025



Stand UDB at BRAFA 2025

UNIVERS DU BRONZE GALLERY | SCULPTURES XIX – XX – XXI

Founded in 1983, the Univers du Bronze Gallery mainly exhibits works by major sculptors of the 19th and 20th centuries. The artists include Barye, Bugatti, Carpeaux, Degas, Giacometti, Hubert le Gall, Jivko, Lalanne, Laurens, Lipchitz, Maillol, Rodin...

Michel Poletti and Alain Richarme, co-founders and directors, have also published several catalogues raisonnés concerning Barye, Carpeaux, Mène and Righetti. Their collections could be seen at BRAFA (Brussels), TEFAF Maastricht and Fine Arts Biennale (Paris).

Michel Poletti is the author of a first biography devoted to Barye and a second one dedicated to Carpeaux.

Alain Richarme is an expert at the Court of Appeal in Paris and has been a member of many vettings for international trade fairs (Masterpiece London, TEFAF Maastricht...).

Dr Yannick Bapt is the author of a doctoral thesis on the cabinetmakers' dynasty BVRB and expert at the Court of Appeal in Paris.

Dr Charline Bessiere wrote a doctoral thesis on the sculptor Romolo Ferrucci, 16th century animal sculptor at the Medicis Court.

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