

BIOGRAPHICAL TIMELINE

Auguste Rodin 1840–1917

1840

Birth of Auguste Rodin on November 12 in Paris.

1854

Enrolls at the École impériale spéciale de dessin et de mathématiques (known as the “Petite École”), where he studies drawing under Horace Lecoq de Boisbaudran.

1857–1859

Applies to study sculpture at the prestigious, state-sponsored École nationale des Beaux-Arts and fails three times.

1858

Works for various ornamentalists (artists who specialized in designing and executing ornamental motifs and decorative schemes).

1862–1863

Sorely affected by the death of his sister Maria, Rodin joins the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament as a seminarian.

1864

Begins working in the studio of sculptor Albert-Ernest Carrier-Belleuse (1824–1877). Meets Rose Beuret, age 20, who became his model and lifelong partner.

1865

2

The mask of *The Man with the Broken Nose* is rejected by the Salon.

1866

Attends classes in animal anatomy with Antoine-Louis Barye (1795–1875) at the Muséum national d'histoire naturelle.

Rose gives birth to their son, Auguste-Eugène Beuret, a future draftsman and engraver.

1870

Lives in Belgium and works with Carrier-Belleuse on various decorative projects for buildings and monuments.

On returning to Paris in late September, he is drafted into military service.

1871

Discharged from the army for nearsightedness, he returns to Belgium where he remains until 1877.

1872

Carrier-Belleuse returns to Paris, ending his collaboration with Rodin. Rose joins Rodin in Brussels.

1875

3

Exhibits *Man with the Broken Nose* at the Salon in Paris. Considers the acceptance of this work as a victory, describing it as his “first good sculpture.”

Travels to Italy to study the works of Renaissance sculptors, especially Michelangelo.

1877

Exhibits a plaster version of *The Age of Bronze* in Brussels and then at the Salon des Artistes Français in Paris. Rodin is accused of having cast the figure from life; however, the scandal contributes to his growing fame.

Returns to France, where he continues work as an ornamentalist sculptor.

1879

Produces vases for the Sèvres porcelain factory until December 1882.

1880

The French government purchases a cast of *The Age of Bronze* and commissions him to design a large doorway for a planned museum of decorative arts.

He is assigned a studio at the Dépôt des Marbres to work on this project—*The Gates of Hell*...

Exhibits the plaster version of *Saint John the Baptist* at the Salon.

1881–1882

4

Begins work on *The Thinker*, *The Kiss*, and *Ugolino*.

1882

Meets Camille Claudel, age 18, who becomes his studio assistant, model, and lover, as well as a sculptor in her own right.

1883

Shows his drawings for the first time in an exhibition at the Cercle des Arts Libéraux in Paris.

1885

The city of Calais commissions *The Burghers of Calais*.

1888

The French government commissions a marble version of *The Kiss* for the Universal Exposition of 1889.

1890

The Gates of Hell reaches its final form.

1891

The Society of Men of Letters of France commissions *Monument to Balzac* to honor one of its founding members—novelist and playwright Honoré de Balzac (1799–1850).

1892

5

First parts ways with Camille Claudel.

1893

Becomes vice president of the National Society of Fine Arts and president of the sculpture section.

Hires the sculptor Antoine Bourdelle as a studio assistant.

1895

Buys the Villa des Brillants in the Paris suburb of Meudon.

1897

Meditation is exhibited in Stockholm and Dresden. For the first time, an incomplete figure is treated as a finished work.

1898

Ends relationship with Camille Claudel.

1899

His first monographic exhibition is shown in Brussels, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, and The Hague.

1900

Organizes his first solo exhibition in France to coincide with the Universal Exposition. The specially built “Rodin Pavilion” was located at the Place de l’Alma, Paris.

1901

The Rodin Pavilion is dismantled and rebuilt in Meudon, where it is converted into a studio.

Eugène Druet's photographs of Rodin's works are exhibited at the Galerie des Artistes Modernes.

1902

Meets German poet Rainer Maria Rilke (1875–1926), whom he employs as his secretary in 1905 and 1906.

1904

Exhibits the large plaster version of *The Thinker* at the International Society of Sculptors, Painters, and Gravers in London, then unveils a bronze version at the Salon in Paris.

1906

A large bronze statue of *The Thinker* is installed in front of the Panthéon in Paris.

Paints a series of watercolors of Cambodian dancers at the Colonial Exposition in Marseille.

Meets the Japanese dancer Hanako (1868–1945), who poses for him for the first time in 1907.

Receives a commission from London for *Monument to Whistler*.

1907

First exhibition consisting solely of drawings at the Bernheim-Jeune Gallery in Paris

1908

7

The sculptor moves to the Hôtel Biron (today the Musée Rodin in Paris), a neglected 18th-century mansion.

King Edward VII visits Rodin in Meudon.

1909

Initial proposal for a major donation of Rodin's work to the state and the founding of a Rodin museum at the Hôtel Biron is drawn.

1910

Exhibition of drawings, *The Thinker*, and photographs by Edward Steichen at the Little Galleries of the Photo-Secession in New York. U.S. First Lady Edith Roosevelt visits Rodin in Meudon.

1911

Art: Collected Interviews with Paul Gsell (1870–1947), the journalist and art critic, is published.

1912

Rodin exhibition in Tokyo.

A gallery devoted entirely to Rodin's work opens at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

1913

Camille Claudel is confined to a mental asylum where she dies thirty years later on October 19, 1943.

1914

Fleeing the Great War, Rodin and Rose leave for England in the company of his biographer, Judith Cladel.

Donates eighteen sculptures to Great Britain.

1916

Rodin becomes seriously ill after suffering a stroke.

Offers to donate his work and collections to the state in three installments. The Chamber of Deputies and the Senate accept the donation, and the National Assembly votes to establish the Musée Rodin in the Hôtel Biron.

1917

Rodin marries Rose Beuret on January 29 in Meudon, two weeks before her death on February 14.

Rodin dies on November 17 and is buried beside Rose at Meudon. A large-scale cast of *The Thinker* is installed on their grave.

1919

Musée Rodin opens its doors to the public on August 4.