



UNIVERS DU BRONZE

Exhibition at BRAFA 26
January 25 – February 1, 2026
STAND 69

Press kit



Stand 69

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 chief model of the *Gloria Victis* by **Antonin Mercié** is exceptional through different aspects, first by its dimension : it's an half-life size example, reduction n°1. We estimate the most a dozen examples, including one museum example, at the Musée des Augustins in Toulouse one, the birthplace of the sculptor. Above all, it's not just any bronze, but the master model- the matrix of the reproduction- partially reassembled as an edition example, with visible mounting keys. This bronze is mentioned in a note of January 29, 1912 on the manufacturing sheet of the model' at Barbedienne's : « le sculpteur autorise l'éditeur à monter en épreuve et à mettre en vente le [modèle] numéro un ».

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 an 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 great *Retour de Chasse avec cornac* by **Roger Godchaux**, a justified lifetime cast at 15 examples, one of the largest subject in the sculptor's corpus.

The scenography of this 2026 edition will leave great space to furniture and design, with the presentation of Table *Femme* by **Philippe Hiquily**, in marteled brass and a glass top adorned with the artist's monogram.

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 playfull 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.



Antonin MERCIÉ (1845-1916)

GLORIA VICTIS

Salon in 1874 (plaster), in 1875 (bronze)

Universal Exhibition (1878) and French Art century Exhibition (1900)

Bronze, reduction N°1 (3/5 of the original), richly shaded brown patina, gilt highlights.

H : 187 cm, L : 112 cm, D : 91 cm

Chief model signed "A.Mercié" with the mark of "F. Barbedienne Fondateur", presented like master model with apparent assemblies and keys, probably the one identified in the CR: "le janvier 1912, le sculpteur autorise l'éditeur à monter en épreuve et à mettre en vente le modèle n°1", a second example at Musée des Augustins in Toulouse.

Circa 1880-1912



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

Moi je suis Bacchus
qui presse pour les hommes
Le nectar délicieux.
Beethoven.



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?

Philippe HIQUILY (1925-2013)

TABLE FEMME (1979-2011)

Hammered brass base, glass top with artist's monogram.

H : 77 cm, L : 160 cm, D : 160 cm

Lifetime example signed "Hiquily", numbered "5/8", from the original edition made in 2011 based on a 1979 model.

Made in 2011



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



Hubert LE GALL (born in 1961)
BUREAU "VIRGILE" (2020)

Bronze, richly shaded brown patina.

H : 95 cm, L : 150 cm, D : 95 cm

Original edition from the artist, this one numbered "EA II/IV".

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 are 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.

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

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