



Pierre-Eugène Émile Hébert

1828-1893

Bellerophon winner of the Chimaera, 1874
Bronze with brown patina signed in the middle

Dimensions : 118 cm

Dimensions : 46.46 inch

This Bellerophon, hero coming from Corinth, winner of many monsters, is a wonderful bronze with a composition that increases the muscle structure of the hero and Pegasus too.

Hébert dramatized the victory of Bellerophon on the Chimera. This monster with three breathed fire heads, one lion, one goat and one dragon, was the deformed daughter of Echidna and Typhon. Iobatès was asked to kill Bellerophon but didn't want to do it directly. So he sent the hero to many dangers, hoping he met his death. That was the reason why Bellerophon, helped by Athena who tamed Pegasus with a magic bridle, went into the fight against Chimera.

But despite of Pegasus' speed, Bellerophon didn't succeed in killing Chimera. The hero returned to Athena who informed him to drive his sword in a lead block. Bellerophon did this and when he plunged his sword into Chimera's mouth, the monster breathed fire and the lead burned inside of it. So Pegasus moved aside at the monster died.

Biography

Studying with his father, the sculptor Pierre Hébert, and Jean-Jacques Feuchère, Emile Hébert started his artistic career with public commissions, conventional busts and allegories reflecting the eclecticism of his time. He was active from the Second Empire to the beginning of the Third French Republic.

One of the most representative commission was destined to the the Vaudeville Theater in Paris, for which he made two allegorical statues in stone : "Comedy" and "Drama".

Emile Hébert took part in the Salon of French Artists in Paris between 1846 and 1893, exhibiting bronze sculptures. In 1859, he exhibited "And always !! And never !!", that will strongly influenced Baudelaire who was admiring the sculptor's ability to transcend materiality and to represent emptiness. This sculpture showed a particular side of the artist. Indeed, Hébert had a fascination for morbid subjects, a taste influence by the romantic sculptors.

He also exhibited at the 1855's Paris' Universal Exhibition, where he showed a statue "Young girl saving a bee".

Museums

National Gallery of Art de Washington

Musée d'Orsay

High Museum of Art à Atlanta

Bibliography

E. About, Voyage à travers l'exposition des Beaux-arts, Paris, 1855, p. 248-249 - Cat. Expo : The Romantics to Rodin, French Nineteenth-Century Sculpture from North American Collections, Los Angeles County Museum of art, 1980, p. 294-295

Jeanne Stump, "The Sculpture of Emile Hébert : Themes and Variations", The Register of the Spencer Museum of Art, The University of Kansas, Lawrence, vol. V, n°10, spring 1982, p. 29-61 --- Cat. Expo. : Nineteenth Century French and western European Sculpture in Bronze and Other Media, New York, Shepherd Gallery, spring exhibition, 1985, p. 116 ---

Suzanne Glover Lindsay, " A modern Mephistophélès by Emile Hébert ", Cantor Arts center Journal, Vol. IV, 2004-2005, p. 15-25.