

Rodin Museum

Administered by the
Philadelphia Museum of Art

Rodin Museum

Philadelphia

Admission:

A contribution of \$3.00 per person is suggested.

Hours:

Tuesday through Sunday,
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Closed
Mondays and holidays. (Hours
subject to change.)

Museum Store and Visitors' Center:

The Store and Visitors' Center
offers opportunities to view
informative videos about
Rodin's life and work.

Tours:

Inform audio tours are available
at the Visitors' Center for \$3.00
and allow for random-access
information about the Museum
and selected sculptures.

Free guided tours are available.
For days and times, call
215-763-8100. Groups of 15 or
more may arrange private tours
by calling 215-684-7863. School
groups, call 215-684-7582. Col-
lege groups, call 215-684-7598.

Transportation:

SEPTA buses numbers 7, 32,
38, 43, 48, and the Phlash
Downtown Visitor Shuttle.

There is limited parking
around the Museum.

Photography:

Visitors are welcome to use
hand-held cameras. Tripods
are not permitted.

Friends of the Rodin Museum:

Membership in the *Friends
of the Rodin Museum* helps
support the maintenance of the
Museum, its collections, and
gardens through annual dues
and volunteer efforts. Annual
membership starts at \$100.
For information, contact the
Friends of the Rodin Museum,
c/o Development Department,
Philadelphia Museum of Art,
P.O. Box 7646, Philadelphia,
PA 19101-7646. 215-684-7750.

Publications:

A fully-illustrated scholarly
catalogue and a handbook of
the collection are available.

Accessibility:

Parking and barrier-free access
available. Listening systems,
touch tours, Braille and large-
print materials are available by
calling in advance, 215-684-7601.
TTY 215-684-7600.

Rodin Museum

Benjamin Franklin Parkway at 22nd Street
P.O. Box 7646, Philadelphia, PA 19101-7646
www.rodinmuseum.org

For information about the Philadelphia Museum of Art
and the Rodin Museum, call 215-763-8100.

Recording for daily events: 215-684-7500
Philadelphia visitor information: 1-800-537-7676



Front cover: *The Thinker*, 1880, enlarged 1902-4



Auguste Rodin

The great French sculptor Auguste Rodin (1840-1917) brought monumental public sculpture into the twentieth century and established a new sculptural freedom which continues to haunt our imaginations. His stated aim was to be absolutely faithful to nature; he steadfastly refused to idealize his subjects, creating instead an unprecedented combination of outer realism and psychological insight. Rodin's uncanny ability to penetrate the masks of the men and women he portrayed, the bravura of his rough, light-catching modeling, and his extraordinary use and reuse of the same similar figures, and even parts of them (torsos, limbs, and hands), have established his place among the greatest sculptors of all time.



Right: *Adam*, 1880
Left: *Mignon*, 1867-68

The Museum

Jules E. Mastbaum, Philadelphia's great movie theater magnate and one of its best-known philanthropists, began collecting works by Rodin in 1923 with the expressed intent of founding a museum to enrich the lives of his fellow citizens. He set about assembling a complete view of Rodin's work, acquiring not only finished bronzes but also plaster studies as well as drawings, prints, letters, and books.

By the time of his death in 1926, Mastbaum had brought together the greatest Rodin collection outside of Paris. He had also commissioned the two great French neoclassical architects working in Philadelphia, Paul Cret and Jacques Gréber, to collaborate on a museum and garden, but did not live to see it completed.

The museum, which opened to the public in 1929, houses 127 sculptures, including bronze casts of the artist's greatest works: *The Thinker*, perhaps the most famous sculpture in the world; *The Burghers of Calais*, his most heroic and moving historical tribute; *Eternal Springtime*, one of the most lyrical works dealing with human love; powerful monuments to leading French intellectuals such as *Apotheosis of Victor Hugo*; and the culminating creation of his career, *The Gates of Hell*, on which the artist worked from 1880 until his death in 1917.

