

## Timeline

- 1861** October 30th: birth of Emile-Antoine Bourdelle in Montauban.
- 1874** Leaves school and joins his father's studio.
- 1876** Receives a grant to enrol at Toulouse School of Fine Arts.
- 1884** Arrives in Paris. Admitted to the Paris School of Fine Arts in Falguière's studio.  
Exhibits at the Salon of French Artists for the first time.
- 1885** Rents a studio in Montparnasse at 16, impasse du Maine.  
[\*La Première victoire d'Hannibal \(The First Victory of Hannibal\)\*](#) at the Salon of French Artists.
- 1886** His parents join him at his Paris studio.  
[\*L'Amour agonise \(Love Agonises\)\*](#) at the Salon of French Artists.
- 1887** Bourdelle's mother dies.
- 1888** [\*Beethoven la joue appuyée sur la main \(Beethoven Resting his Cheek on his Hand\)\*](#): the very first of a series of some eighty portraits inspired by this genius; running up to 1929.  
[\*Adam\*](#) at the Salon of French Artists.
- 1893** Joins Rodin's studio as a 'praticien'
- 1895** Wins the contest for the [\*Monument aux combattants et défenseurs du Tarn-et-Garonne de 1870-1871 \(Monument to the Fighters and Defenders of Tarn-et-Garonne of 1870-1871\)\*](#) in Montauban.  
Exhibited previously at the Salon of the National Society of Fine Arts, the monument was inaugurated in 1902.
- 1901** Birth of Pierre, son of Bourdelle and his first wife Stéphanie Van Parys.
- 1903** Meets Cléopâtre Sévastos, the pupil who would later become his second wife.
- 1905** First personal exhibition in the gallery of the foundry owner Hébrard in Paris.
- 1906** Bourdelle's father dies.
- 1908** Bourdelle leaves Rodin's studio.
- 1909** Completion of [\*Tête d'Apollon \(Head of Apollo\)\*](#), begun in 1900.

Starts giving weekly lessons at the Grande Chaumière Academy.

Made Knight of the Legion of Honour.

**1910** Enthusiastic reception of [\*Héraklès archer \(Hercules the Archer\)\*](#), exhibited at the Salon of the National Society of Fine Arts.

Divorces Stéphanie Van Parys.

**1911** Birth of Rhodia Bourdelle, daughter of the sculptor and Cléopâtre Sévastos.

**1913** February 17<sup>th</sup>: *Armory show in New York*, an international modern art exhibition where [\*L'Héraklès archer \(Hercules the Archer\)\*](#) and [\*Tête d'Apollon \(Head of Apollo\)\*](#) are among Bourdelle's exhibited work.

March 1<sup>st</sup>: [\*Monument au général Alvéar \(Monument to General Alvear\)\*](#) commissioned by the Republic of Argentina.

March 31<sup>st</sup>: inauguration of the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées (Champs-Élysées Theatre) built by Auguste Perret.

Bourdelle created the façade and its sculpted decor – the five metopes and the monumental frieze

[\*Apollon et les muses \(Apollo and the Muses\)\*](#) – and the frescoes in the atrium.

**1914** Recognition at the Venice Biennial, with 30 innovative artworks.

Exhibits the [\*Centaure mourant \(Dying Centaur\)\*](#) at the National Society of Fine Arts, based on his fresco at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées,

[\*La Mort du dernier centaure \(The Death of the Last Centaur\)\*](#).

**1919** Made Officer of the Legion of Honour.

Léon Vogt, an industrialist from Mulhouse, commissions

[\*La Vierge à l'offrande \(The Virgin of the Offering\)\*](#), sculpted in 1922-1923.

**1923** Model of [\*La France \(France\)\*](#) (1923-1925);

Starts working on the low relief [\*La Naissance d'Aphrodite \(The Birth of Aphrodite\)\*](#) for the top of the stage at the Marseille Opera.

**1924** Commander of the Legion of Honour.

**1925** International Decorative Arts Exhibition in Paris:

[\*Sapho \(Sappho\)\*](#), [\*Le Livre \(The Book\)\*](#), [\*Masque de Bourdelle \(Mask by Bourdelle\)\*](#) exhibited at the Book Pavilion.

- 1926** Inauguration of the [\*Monument au général Alvéar \(Monument to General Alvear\)\*](#) in Buenos Aires, after 10 years of work and over 57 sculptures, studies and fragments. Presentation of a version of [\*La France \(France\)\*](#) at the Tuileries Fair.
- 1928** Retrospective for the inauguration of the Brussels Centre for Fine Arts: 141 sculptures, 78 paintings, drawings and watercolours.
- 1929** Inauguration on Place de l'Alma of the [\*Monument à Adam Mickiewicz \(Monument to Adam Mickiewicz\)\*](#), designed 20 years earlier at the request of the Franco-Polish Committee.  
Bourdelle dies on 1<sup>st</sup> October at Le Vésinet, in the house of his friend, the foundry owner Rudier.
- 1931** Retrospective of Bourdelle's work at the Orangerie: 200 sculptures, 128 paintings, drawings and watercolours.
- 1949** Opening of the Musée Bourdelle in the studios on Impasse du Maine, renamed Impasse Antoine Bourdelle.
- 1961** Centenary of Bourdelle's birth.  
Opening of the Plaster Cast Hall at the Musée Bourdelle, designed by the architect Henri Gautruche.
- 1972** Death of Cléopâtre Bourdelle.
- 1992** Opening of the new wing built by the architect Christian de Portzamparc at the Musée Bourdelle.
- 2002** Death of Rhodia Bourdelle. Bequest to the City of Paris.