

CHRONOLOGY OF THE ARTIST'S LIFE

- 1840** November 12, birth of François-Auguste René Rodin in Paris to Jean-Baptiste Rodin, age thirty-eight, and Marie Cheffer, age thirty-four.
- 1854** Enters the Petite École (the École Impériale Spéciale de Dessin et de Mathématiques), a school for the training of decorative artists.
- 1855** Begins modeling clay. Studies at the Louvre.
- 1857** Leaves the Petite École. Fails the entrance exam of the Grande École (École des Beaux-Arts) forfeiting the prestige that the École accords its students. (Graduates of the École received the important commissions for public sculptures.) Works as a statuary mason for various decorators. Employed by the architect Haussmann in his reconstruction of Paris under Napoleon III.
- 1862** Death of his sister, Maria, age twenty-five. Rodin enters the Order of the Fathers of the Holy Sacrament as Brother Augustine.
- 1863** Leaves the Order.
- 1864–65** Studies with the animal sculptor Antoine-Louis Barye (1795–1875) at the Musée d'Histoire Naturelle. Has various decorative art jobs. Meets and begins working for the sculptor Albert-Ernest Carrier-Belleuse (1824–1887). First studio on rue Le Brun. The sculpture called *Man with a Broken Nose* is rejected by the Salon. Meets Rose Beuret (1844–1917), who becomes his companion.
- 1866** Son Auguste-Eugène Beuret is born on January 18.
- 1870** Franco-Prussian War. Drafted into the National Guard. Attains the rank of corporal. Discharged for myopia.
- 1871** Works with Carrier-Belleuse in Brussels. Death of his mother. Has his first exhibition in Belgium.
- 1873** Begins collaboration with the sculptor Antoine van Rasbourgh.
- 1874** Involved in various architectural decoration projects in Brussels.
- The first Impressionist exhibition takes place.**
- 1875–76** Travels to Italy and leaves Rose in charge of his studio in Brussels. Studies Michelangelo's works.
- 1877** Lives in Paris with Rose Beuret. Exhibits *The Age of Bronze*,* called *The Vanquished*. Begins *Saint John the Baptist Preaching* and creates *Walking Man*. *Partnership with van Rasbourgh ends.
- 1880** *Saint John the Baptist Preaching* (which is larger than lifesize) and *The Age of Bronze* are exhibited together at the Salon. The French state commissions *The Gates of Hell*. Creates *The Thinker*. *Finishes *Adam*. *
- 1881** Works on the *Gates of Hell*, *Eve*,* and the *Fallen Caryatid with Stone*. *Exhibits *Adam* and *Saint John the Baptist Preaching* at the Paris Salon.
- 1883** Meets Camille Claudel, who becomes his mistress. She is also his model and works as a sculptor in his studio. Creates *Bust of Victor Hugo*. * His father dies.
- 1884** Moves to a larger studio at 117, rue de Valenciennes. The Calais municipality commissions *The Burghers of Calais*. * Works on the *Gates of Hell* and *The Burghers of Calais*. Submits first maquette for *The Burghers of Calais*.
- 1885** Signs contract for *The Burghers of Calais* commission.
- 1887** Rodin made Chevalier of the Legion of Honor. Exhibits *The Kiss* (bronze) and three figures from *The Burghers of Calais* at the Galerie Georges Petit, Paris.
- 1889** Joint exhibition of Rodin's and Monet's work at the Galerie Georges Petit. Rodin shows thirty-six works, including *The Burghers of Calais*. The French government commissions *The Monument to Victor Hugo*. First rejection of the Victor Hugo sculpture.
- The Eiffel Tower is completed.**
- 1890** Second rejection of the Victor Hugo project. Rodin works on a third Victor Hugo sculpture.
- 1891** Works on a monument to Balzac.
- 1893** Rodin becomes the president of the sculpture section of the Société Nationale des Beaux-Arts, Paris. The subscription for the monument to the burghers of Calais is renewed, having been inactive since 1886. Rodin's health declines.

- 1894** Travels in the South of France. Meets Cézanne at Monet's house at Giverny. In Calais visits the site of *The Burghers of Calais* monument. Buys a house at Meudon.
- 1895** Moves to his new house, the Villa des Briliants at Meudon. *The Burghers of Calais* is installed in the Place de Richelieu, Calais, on a five-foot-high pedestal.
- 1897** Exhibits plaster cast of *The Monument to Victor Hugo*. The Metropolitan Museum of Art acquires its first Rodin sculpture, *The Bust of Saint John the Baptist*.*
- 1898** The Société des Gens de Lettres rejects the sculpture of Balzac. Much negative press against Rodin. Ends relationship with Camille Claudel. Exhibits plaster of *Balzac* and *The Kiss* (marble) at the Salon de la Société Nationale, Paris.
- 1900** Opening of the Rodin Pavilion on the Place de l'Alma, near the Exposition Universelle, Paris. Rodin exhibits one hundred and fifty works.
- 1901** Exhibits at the Venice Biennale and at the Third Berlin Secession.
- 1902** Travels to Prague for an exhibition of his work. Meets the German poet Rainer Maria Rilke and the American dancer Isadora Duncan.
- 1903** Named Commander of the Legion of Honor. Becomes president of the International Society of Painters, Sculptors, and Engravers following Whistler's death. Exhibitions in Berlin, London, Venice, and New York.
- 1904** Exhibits large plaster and small bronze of *The Thinker* at the International Society of Painters, Sculptors, and Engravers exhibition, London. Exhibits large bronze of *The Thinker* at the Salon de la Société Nationale, Paris.
- 1905** Rilke becomes Rodin's secretary. Exhibits at the Autumn Salon for the first time.
- 1906** *The Thinker* is placed in front of the Panthéon. Rodin dismisses Rilke as his secretary.
- 1907** Reconciliation with Rilke. Exhibitions in London, Berlin, Paris, Barcelona, Venice, New York, and Budapest.
- 1908** The king of England, Edward VII, visits Rodin at Meudon. Rodin moves to the Hôtel Biron, rue de Varenne. Exhibitions in Berlin, Florence, Brussels, Buenos Aires, Liverpool, and Vienna.
- 1909** Inauguration of *The Monument to Victor Hugo* in the gardens of the Palais Royal.
- 1910** The Metropolitan Museum of Art acquires twelve works by Rodin.
- 1911** Travels to London to choose the site for *The Burghers of Calais*. The French state buys the Hôtel Biron for the Ministère d'Instruction Publique et des Beaux-Arts.
- 1912** The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Rodin collection opens.
- 1913** Camille Claudel confined to an asylum. *The Burghers of Calais* is placed in the Parliament Gardens in London.
- 1914** Rodin writes a book titled *The Cathedrals of France*, assisted by Charles Maurice.
- Germany declares war on France.**
- 1916** The National Assembly votes to establish a Musée Rodin in the Hôtel Biron.
- 1917** Rodin marries Rose Beuret at Meudon on January 29. Rose dies of pneumonia on February 14. Rodin dies on November 17. His funeral is held on November 24. Rodin is buried at Meudon near the grave of Rose Beuret, under the statue of *The Thinker*.
- 1918** The Musée Rodin is officially approved.
- 1924** *The Burghers of Calais* is relocated to the square in front of the town hall at ground level without the fence that had surrounded it at the previous location.

*These works of art may be viewed at The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

For a more detailed chronology, see Miller and Marotta, *Rodin: The B. Gerald Cantor Collection*.