ALBERT-ERNEST CARRIER-BELLEUSE (1824-1887)

Albert Ernest Carrier-Belleuse was one of the most successful sculptors in 19th-century Europe. He led successful studios in both France and Belgium and was hired as artistic director for the renowned porcelain manufacturers Minton & Co., based in Stock-on-Trent, England, where he resided between 1850-1855. His works are housed in major museum collections worldwide, including the Musée d'Orsay in Paris, the Victoria & Albert Museum in London and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

Born in Ainzy-le-Château in 1824, Carrier-Belleuse first exhibited at the Paris Salon in 1851. The artist's reputation began to grow both in France and abroad thanks to the success of his 1861 Salon entry *Salve Regina*. Such success was cemented with his works *La Bacchante* (1863) and *La Messie*, the latter winning the Medal of Honour at the Salon in 1867.



Étienne Carjat, *Albert Ernest Carrier Belleuse,* circa 1865

As well as his academic accomplishments, Carrier-Belleuse made his fortune as a sculptor of small-scale bronzes, marbles and terracottas, which were particularly popular with the growing French middle class. Throughout his career, he was able to build on his success thanks to his business acumen, organising personal sales at the Hôtel Drouot in Paris and engaging numerous skilled artists in his studio practice. Auguste Rodin famously worked under Carrier-Belleuse, learning from and collaborating with his master in Belgium in the early 1870s. The artistic relationship between the two has been celebrated in the 2014 exhibition *Carrier-Belleuse: Le maître de Rodin* at the Musées et domaine nationaux du Palais Impérial de Compiègne.

Carrier-Belleuse died on 4th June 1887 at Sèvres, France.