

# RODIN RILKE HOFMANNSTHAL

DER MENSCH  
UND SEIN GENIUS

Since the turn of the century, Berlin's Nationalgalerie – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin has shown several key works by the French sculptor Auguste Rodin (1840-1917) like *The Thinker*, *The Age of Bronze*, and *Man and his Thought*. To mark the 100th anniversary of Rodin's death, Alte Nationalgalerie will present a special exhibition focusing on the small bronze statue *Man and His Genius*, which up until now has received relatively little attention. This work from around 1896, showing a man and a female genius emerging from him, emblemizes artistic inspiration.

The small sculpture is closely tied to the work of two important writers: on the one hand Rainer Maria Rilke, who in his writings contributed to Rodin's popularization in Germany, for example with the poem "Nike" inspired by this sculpture. On the other, Hugo von Hofmannsthal, who discovered the plaster version in 1900 on his trip to Paris and immediately commissioned its casting in bronze. For twenty years, *Man and His Genius* stood on Hofmannsthal's desk as a source of inspiration at his home in Rodau near Vienna. When Hofmannsthal found himself in financial difficulties, his friend Rilke arranged to have the bronze sold to the Swiss collector Werner Reinhart. From there it made its way later to the collection of Berlin's Nationalgalerie.

Imperfection and the fugacity of thought shape Rodin's work, raising the question of the artistic signature and the openness of artistic interpretation. Rilke and Hofmannsthal were greatly inspired by Rodin, as is shown by their works and the history of the small bronze sculpture.

The exhibition "Rodin – Rilke – Hofmannsthal. Man and His Genius" presents Rodin's masterpieces from the collection of Berlin's Nationalgalerie, several loans from Paris' Musée Rodin and Bremer Kunsthalle, along with several manuscripts, letters, and photographs from the estates of Rilke and Hofmannsthal. This show, curated by Maria Obenaus and Ralph Gleis, provides a new perspective on Rodin's oeuvre: the sculpture *Man and His Genius* becomes the point of departure for a reflection on inspiration in the arts that can also be seen in the prints of Eugène Carrière and Max Klinger.

The exhibition is part of the official celebration of the 100th anniversary of Auguste Rodin's death: [www.rodin100.org](http://www.rodin100.org)

**Rodin – Rilke – Hofmannsthal  
Man and His Genius**  
17.11.2017 – 18.03.2018

**Alte Nationalgalerie  
Staatliche Museen zu Berlin**  
Bodestraße 1-3  
10178 Berlin

[www.augusterodininberlin.de](http://www.augusterodininberlin.de)

**Press Conference**  
Thursday, 16.11.2017, 11 am

**Opening**  
Thursday, 16.11.2017, 7 pm

**Opening Hours**  
Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun 10 am–6 pm  
Thu 10 am–6 pm  
Mon closed

**Press Contact  
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*The exhibition is made possible by the  
Freunde der Nationalgalerie.*



**Nationalgalerie**  
Staatliche Museen zu Berlin

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We would like to invite you to join us for the press conference and preview of the exhibition:

**Thursday, November 16, 2017**  
**11 am**  
**Alte Nationalgalerie**

Speakers:

**Udo Kittelmann**, Director of the Nationalgalerie – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin

**Ralph Gleis**, Head of Alte Nationalgalerie

**Maria Obenaus**, Curator of the exhibition

To attend the press conference we ask for accreditation in the press section of our website [www.freunde-der-nationalgalerie.de](http://www.freunde-der-nationalgalerie.de) or via email to [presse@freunde-der-nationalgalerie.de](mailto:presse@freunde-der-nationalgalerie.de)

For more information and press photographs to download, see the press area at our websites [www.augusterodiniberlin.de](http://www.augusterodiniberlin.de) or [www.smb.museum](http://www.smb.museum)

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