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World Class Bronzes at the Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek

The French artist Edgar Degas experimented with expressing movement in his paintings and sculptures. The Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek in Copenhagen is now exhibiting the museum's complete collection of the artist's sculptures in bronze. The new display, "Studies in Bronze" opened March 2.

At the Glyptotek one can experience one of Denmark's largest collections of French art, among which are paintings by Edgar Degas (1834-1917) the motifs of some of which are ballerinas from the Paris Opéra.

The new display "Studies in Bronze" adds an extra dimension to the understanding of Degas as an artist by providing an insight into his work process. Along with, and as an integrated part of his painting, Degas modelled these sculptures in wax to enhance his understanding of the body in motion and thus achieve a more subtle representation of the figures – people or animals – in his painting.

Degas never intended these studies for public exhibition. At the artist's death in 1917 his family discovered almost 150 wax figures in his studio. The best preserved of them were cast in bronze in the early 1920s, and they stand today as testimony to the artist's intense work on movement.

For Degas the objective of these exercises was to present the figure as life-like as possible. "One should follow the model like a fly running around on a sheet of paper," the artist remarked on his endeavour to capture a model's different postures.

The more than 70 bronze sculptures represent some of Degas' favourite motifs: balancing dancers, galloping horses and women in the process of their morning *toilette*. Today only four complete sets of the bronzes exist. The Glyptotek's set was a gift from the Ny Carlsberg Foundation in 1949.

Details

"Studies in Bronze" will be presented at the Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek in Copenhagen from 2nd March to 31st December 2010.

Pictures:

<http://s907.photobucket.com/albums/ac274/glyptoteket/Special%20Exhibitions/Edgar%20Degas/> (login: presse)

Read more about the Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek on www.glyptoteket.com

Further information

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