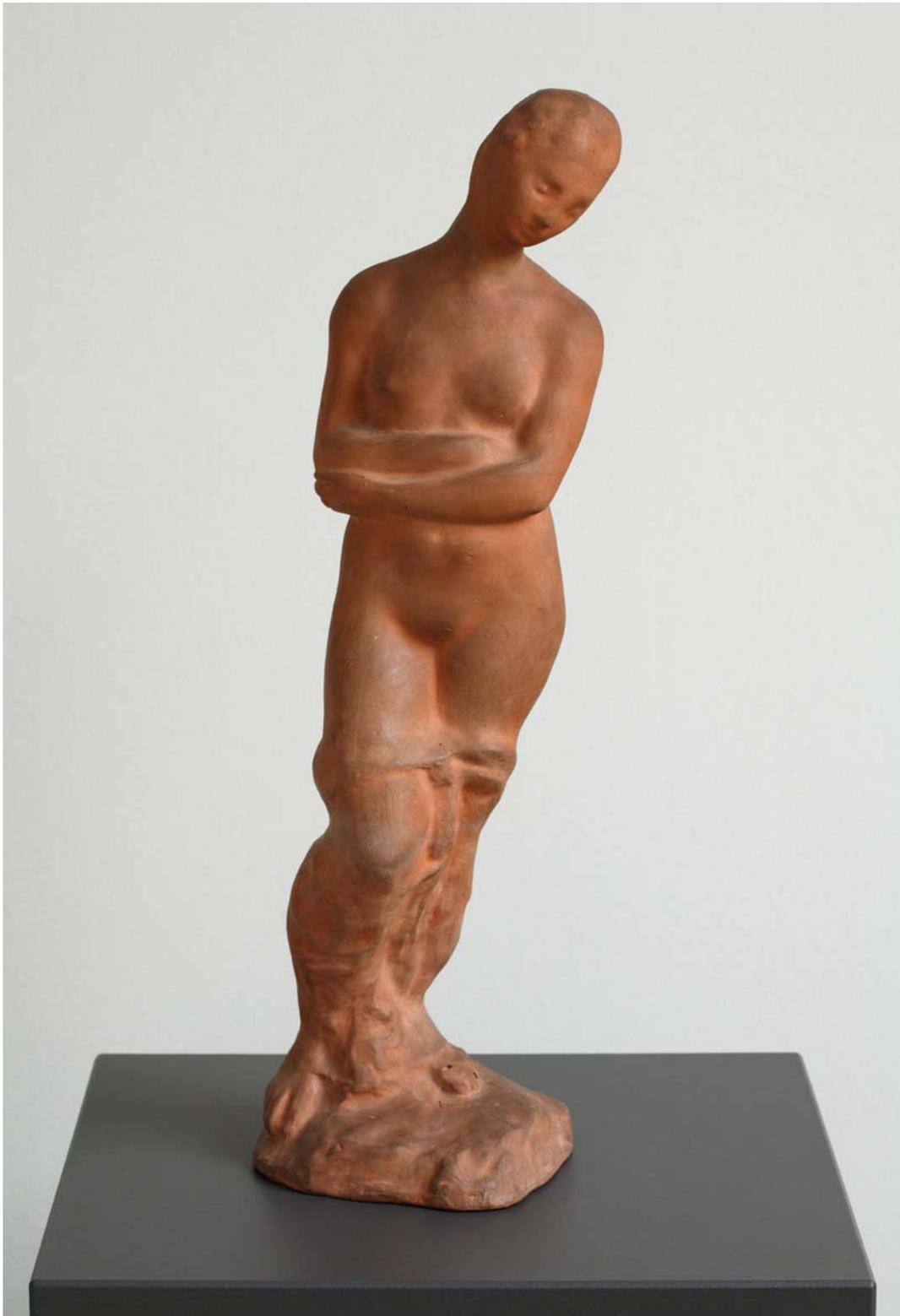


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WILHELM LEHMBRUCK

1881 Meiderich near Duisburg - Berlin 1919

Kleine Sinnende [*Small meditative woman*], c. 1910/11

Terracotta (fired). Signed *W. Lehmbruck* on the base.

Conceived in 1910/11; this terracotta version cast posthumous after 1919.

Height 49 cm

PROVENANCE: Ketterer, Stuttgart 1958 - Private collection, Switzerland – Arnoldi-Livie, Munich – Anonymous sale, Sotheby's, Munich 1988, lot 31 – Private collection, Germany

LITERATURE: Dietrich Schubert, *Wilhelm Lehmbruck. Catalogue raisonné der Skulpturen 1898 – 1919*, Worms 2001, no 55 II, 3 – Siegfried Gohr, *Wahre Wunder – Sammler & Sammlungen im Rheinland*, exhib. cat., Cologne 2000, p. 302, repr. on p. 155

EXHIBITION: *Wahre Wunder – Sammler & Sammlungen im Rheinland*, exhib. cat., Cologne 2000, p. 302, repr. on p. 155, no. G 57

Born in Duisburg, Wilhelm Lehmbruck, one of the leading forerunners for sculpture in the 20th century, was the fourth of eight children born to the miner Wilhelm Lehmbruck and his wife Margaretha. He was able to study sculpture arts at the School of Applied Arts in Düsseldorf by a stipend from the municipal authorities. In 1899 he began to make a living by doing illustrations for scientific publications. He trained at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf and is associated with the Düsseldorf School of Painting from 1901 to 1906. On leaving the academy Lehmbruck worked as an independent artist in Düsseldorf. He exhibited for the first time at the Deutsche Kunstausstellung in Cologne in 1906. He was impressed by the sculptures of Auguste Rodin, and traveled to England, Italy, the Netherlands, and Paris.

In 1912 Lehmbruck exhibited in the Folkwang Museum in Hagen, with Egon Schiele.¹ In 1914, he had his first solo exhibition in Paris at the Galerie Levesque. He contributed to an exhibition at the Grand Palais in Paris. From 1910–1914 he lived in Paris. He frequented the Café du Dôme where he met sculptors such as Modigliani, Brancusi, and Archipenko.

During World War I he served as a paramedic at a military hospital in Berlin. The suffering and misery he saw there are reflected in his late sculptures such as *Fallen Man* (1915–16). He suffered from severe depression and fled the war by going to Zurich at the end of 1916. There he made contact with the socialist L. Rubiner who collaborated on Franz Pfemfert's *Aktion*. He was elected to the Prussian Academy of Arts in Berlin in early 1919. After the war he returned to Berlin where he committed suicide on March 25, 1919.

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A bronze cast was exhibited in 1914 in the Galerie Levesque for the first time. In 1913, the Staatliche Museum, Halle, acquired another bronze cast while a third example belongs to the Angermuseum, Erfurt. Later in 1916 in executed also versions in cast stone and terracotta. Schubert [op. cit.] mentions different heights of these examples (51/52 and 47/48 cm). It is difficult to say which were done during the artist's lifetime or posthumous. After Lehmbruck's suicide, his widow ordered also several bronze casts and versions in terracotta which were partly colored or varnished as well¹. Most probably, our example is also executed after the artist's lifetime.

¹ Siegfried Gohr, op. cit., p. 301.