



# Constantin Brâncuși

1879 - 1957 Pestisani

## Summary

Constantin Brancusi first studied sculpture at the School of Arts and Crafts in Craiova (1894–1898) and the National School of Fine Arts in Bucharest (1898–1902). In 1904, Brancusi left Romania permanently, traveling through Budapest, Vienna, Munich, Zurich and Basel, before settling in Paris. There, he continued his training at the École des Beaux-Arts (1905–1907), during which he attracted the attention of French sculptor Auguste Rodin whom greatly influenced Brancusi's novel approach to sculpture. In Paris, Brancusi inserted himself into a thriving community of artists and intellectuals that included Henri Rousseau, Henri Matisse, Amedeo Modigliani, Fernand Léger and Marcel Duchamp. Among these major figures of Modernism, Brancusi emerged as a distinctive force in his pioneering approach to sculpture that reinvigorated the definition of the art object and its conceptual potential beyond its tangible means. Accordingly, Brancusi's cross-fertilization of traditional and novel ideas paved the way for future generations of artists, including figures like Isamu Noguchi and Henry Moore, among others, and foreshadowed quintessential theories at the core of Minimalism and Conceptual Art.

Brancusi made his debut in New York in 1913 at the Armory show, exhibiting five works that would propel modern sculpture to a new and radical trajectory. Over the following years, Brancusi's reputation flourished in the United States, and especially in New York. "Without the Americans, I would not have been able to produce all this or even to have existed," Brancusi remarked to the *New York Times* while celebrating his first museum retrospective at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, in 1955; the exhibition later traveled to the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Brancusi's second Guggenheim retrospective occurred in 1969, and was held in the museum's Frank Lloyd Wright rotunda. Between 1934 until the end of his career, the Museum of Modern Art, New York, included works by Brancusi in more than ten exhibitions. In 1967, Brancusi's work became the subject of his first retrospective at a French museum in *Tribute to Brancusi* at the Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, which then presented a full-scale survey of his work in 1995.

In his will, Brancusi bequeathed a collection of his work to the Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, with the condition that his studio be rebuilt as it stood when he died. The extant reconstruction is presented as a museum space containing the studio, on view opposite the Centre Georges Pompidou. More recently, Brancusi's work has been the subject of major institutional surveys,



including presentations at the Museum of Modern Art, New York (2013); Fondation Beyeler, Basel (2011); Tate Modern, London (2004); Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris (2003). At the present, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, is showcasing its rich collection of works by Brancusi, on view until January 3, 2018.

## Selected Exhibitions

- 2019** "Studio Photography: 1887-2019," Simon Lee Gallery, New York, NY  
"Brancusi: The Photographer", Kasmin Gallery, New York, NY
- 2018** "Constantin Brancusi Sculpture," Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY (2018-19)  
"Brancusi & Duchamp: The Art of Dialogue," Kasmin, New York, NY
- 2017** "Guggenheim Collection: Brâncuși," Guggenheim, New York, NY (2017-18)  
"Toward the Absolute," Vedovi Galerie, Brussels, BE
- 2016** "Behold the Man (Ecce Homo)," Museum De Fundatie, Zwolle, NL (2016-17)
- 2015** "Brancusi: Pioneer of American Minimalism," Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York, NY  
"La Grande Madre," Palazzo Reale, Milan, Italy  
"Four Bronzes," Thomas Gibson Fine Art Ltd, London, United Kingdom  
"Living for Art," Fondation Pierre Bergé Yves Saint Laurent, Paris, France
- 2013** "Brancusi in New York: 1913-2013," Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York, NY
- 2012** "African Art, New York, and the Avant Garde," Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY  
"Inventing Abstraction, 1910-1925: How a Radical Idea Changed Modern Art," Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
- 1988** "Brancusi: Photographs," Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York, NY
- 1960** "Constantin Brancusi, 1876-1957: Sculptures, Drawings, Gouaches," Staempfli Gallery, New York, NY
- 1955** "Constantin Brancusi," Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY and Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA  
"Art in the United States: Collection of the Museum of Modern Art of New York," Musée National d'Art Moderne, Paris, France



- 1954 "Sculpture by Constantin Brancusi," Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
- 1953 "French Masters," Sidney Janis Gallery, New York, NY  
"Sculpture of the XXth Century," Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY  
"Sculpture and Sculptors Drawings," Curt Valentin Gallery, New York, NY  
"Constantin Brancusi Sculpture," Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
- 1951 "Brancusi to Duchamp," Sidney Janis Gallery, New York, NY
- 1950 "Recent Acquisitions," Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY  
"The Heritage of Auguste Rodin," Buchholz Gallery, New York, NY
- 1948 "Timeless Aspects of Modern Art," Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
- 1947 "Alfred Stieglitz Exhibition: His Collection," Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
- 1946 "1910–1912: The Climactic Years in Cubism," Jacques Seligmann & Co, New York, NY  
"Owned in New Jersey," Newark Museum, NJ
- 1944 "The Lee Ault Collection," Buchholz Gallery, New York, NY  
"Art in Progress," Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
- 1942 "Homage to Rodin," Buchholz Gallery, New York, NY  
"Twentieth Century Portraits," Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
- 1941 "From Rodin to Brancusi," Buchholz Gallery, New York, NY
- 1939 "Art in Our Time," Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY  
"Modern Masters from European and American Collections," Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY  
"The A.E. Gallatin Collection," Museum of Living Art, New York, NY
- 1936 "Cubism and Abstract Art," Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
- 1934 "Modern Drawings," French institute of New York, NY  
"Modern Works of Art," Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
- 1933 Second Retrospective, Brummer Gallery, New York, NY
- 1927 The A.E. Gallatin Collection, Museum of Living Art, New York, NY



- 1926 “Memorial Exhibition of Representative Works Selected from the John Quinn Collection,” Art Center, New York, NY  
“The Exhibition of Tri-National Art: French, British, American,” Wildenstein Galleries, New York, NY  
Wildenstein Galleries, New York, NY  
“Brancusi Retrospective,” Brummer Gallery, New York, NY and Arts Club of Chicago, IL  
“International Exhibition of Modern Art of the Société Anonyme,” Brooklyn Museum, NY
- 1922 “Contemporary French Art,” Sculptors Gallery, New York, NY
- 1920 Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
- 1917 Society of Independent Artists, Grand Central Palace, New York, NY
- 1916 Modern Gallery, New York, NY
- 1914 291 Gallery, New York, NY
- 1913 “International Exhibition of Modern Art: Armory Show,” New York, NY

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