

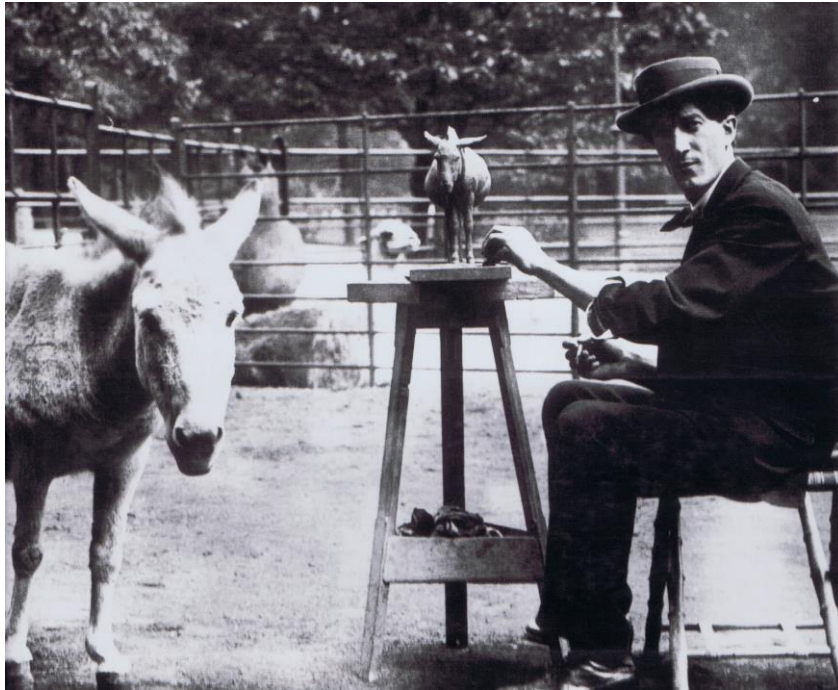
VEREIN DER FREUNDE DER NATIONALGALERIE

REMBRANDT BUGATTI

**Alte Nationalgalerie Berlin
March 28 – July 27, 2014**



Hippopotame baillant, c. 1906, private collection, photography: Peter John Gates



*Rembrandt Bugatti with model in the Antwerp Zoo, 1910
photography: Antwerp Zoo / KMDA*

Rembrandt Bugatti (1884 – 1916) was one of the most remarkable sculptors of the first decade of the 20th century. In his short life he produced more than 300 works, an oeuvre which is unparalleled for descriptive intensity and diversity of form and subject.

Rembrandt Bugatti was born in 1884 in Milan. His older brother Ettore would later become famous as the designer of Bugatti motorcars. Already at an early age, Rembrandt had developed a characteristic stylistic vocabulary, exhibiting at the Venice Biennale when he was only 18 years old. From the start, Bugatti focused on the representation of animals. While he depicted domestic animals such as cows, horses or dogs at the beginning, he later found more exotic subjects like panthers, yaks, tapirs, anteaters or marabous in the zoological gardens of Paris and Antwerp. Bugatti had an extraordinary sense for the 'right' moment, and his accurate observation and profound intuition lend great immediacy and authenticity to his works. Such was his creative power that he could capture in a sculpture the essence of an animal's individual being.

In terms of art history, Rembrandt Bugatti's work stands in the tradition of the sculpture of Impressionism, the elegance of his vision is reminiscent of the sculpture of the Belle Epoque and also of the forms used in Symbolism and Art Nouveau. His late work was dominated by increasing abstraction and shows various similarities with Cubism, Expressionism and Futurism and a seeming anticipation of Art Deco.

The suffering and deaths of both men and animals that Bugatti witnessed during the First World War – wartime food shortages forced the zoos to kill many starving creatures – darkened his spirit. On January 8, 1916, Rembrandt Bugatti committed suicide in Paris.

The exhibition from March 28 – July 27, 2014 consists of around 80 sculptures and extends throughout the entire building of the Alte Nationalgalerie, vividly demonstrating how Bugatti's work is embedded in the art of the 19th and early 20th century. This first solo show of Bugatti's work in Germany offers the opportunity for a spectacular rediscovery.

For more information and press images, please visit our website
www.freunde-der-nationalgalerie.de/en



Éléphant d'Asie „il y arrivera“, c. 1907, private collection, photography: Peter John Gates



Basset „mon chien Wurst“, c. 1905, private collection, photography: Ken Adlard



Panthère marchant, c. 1904, private collection, photography: Peter John Gates



Groupe de deux flamants, c. 1912, private collection, photography: Peter John Gates



Le grand fourmilier, c. 1909/10, private collection, photography: Peter John Gates



Lionceau et levrette, c. 1905, private collection, photography: Peter John Gates



Hood ornament of the Bugatti Royale, 1926, photography: Bernhard Angerer