

# 1840

François-Auguste-René Rodin is born in Paris on November 12 to Jean-Baptiste Rodin and Marie Cheffer.

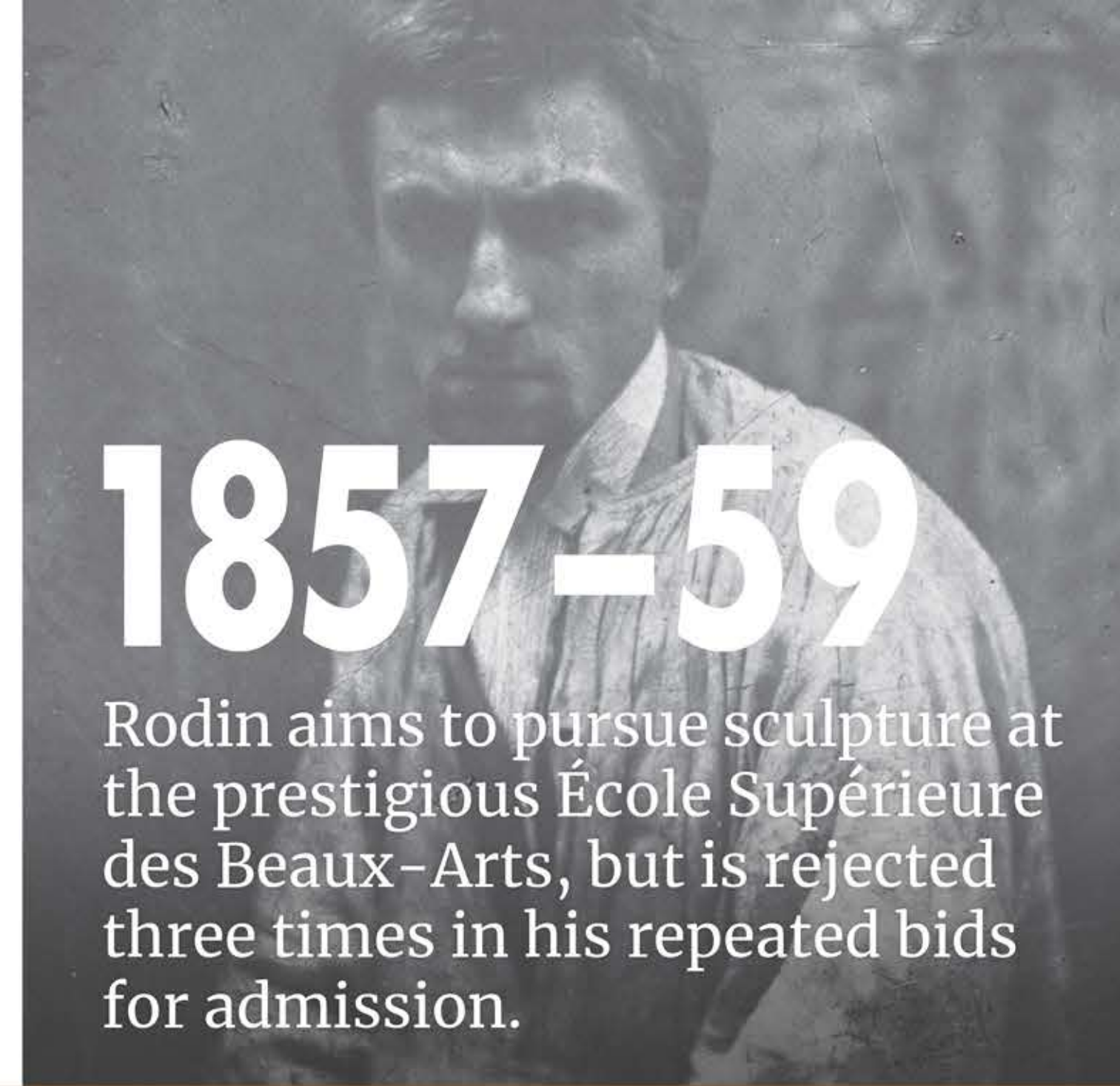


# 1854

Rodin enrolls at the École Impériale Spéciale de Dessin et de Mathématiques, known as the Petite École, a school for the training of decorative artists. There, Horace Lecoq de Boisbaudran teaches him drawing.

# 1857-59

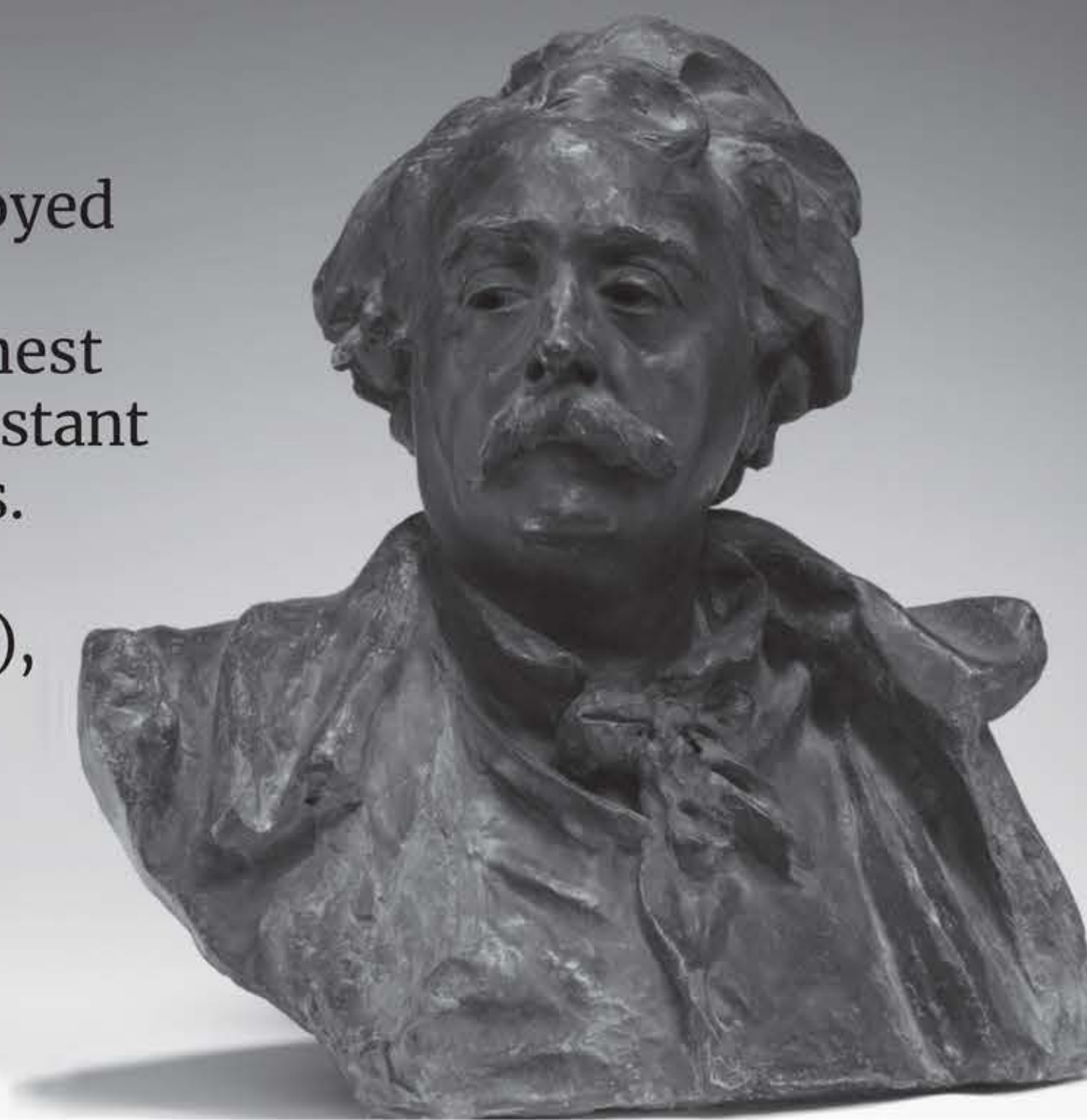
Rodin aims to pursue sculpture at the prestigious École Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, but is rejected three times in his repeated bids for admission.



# 1864

Rodin is first employed by famous French sculptor Albert-Ernest Carrier-Belleuse. He works as his assistant in Paris and Brussels for many years.

Rodin meets Rose Beuret (1844-1917), who will become his lifelong companion and, at the end of their lives, his wife. She works as his studio assistant during the early years of his career.

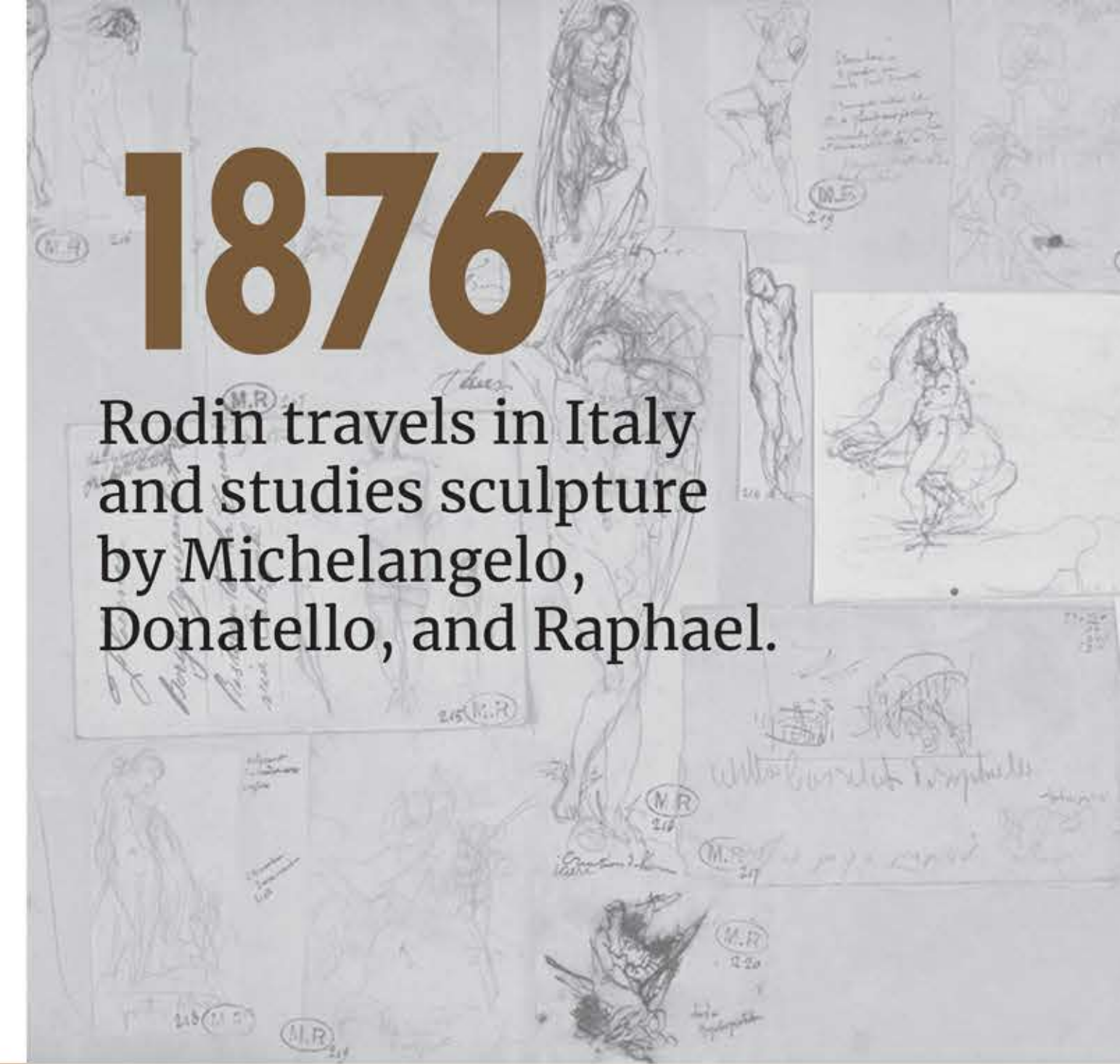


# 1866

Birth of Auguste Beuret (1866-1934), Rose Beuret and Rodin's only son.

# 1876

Rodin travels in Italy and studies sculpture by Michelangelo, Donatello, and Raphael.



# 1877

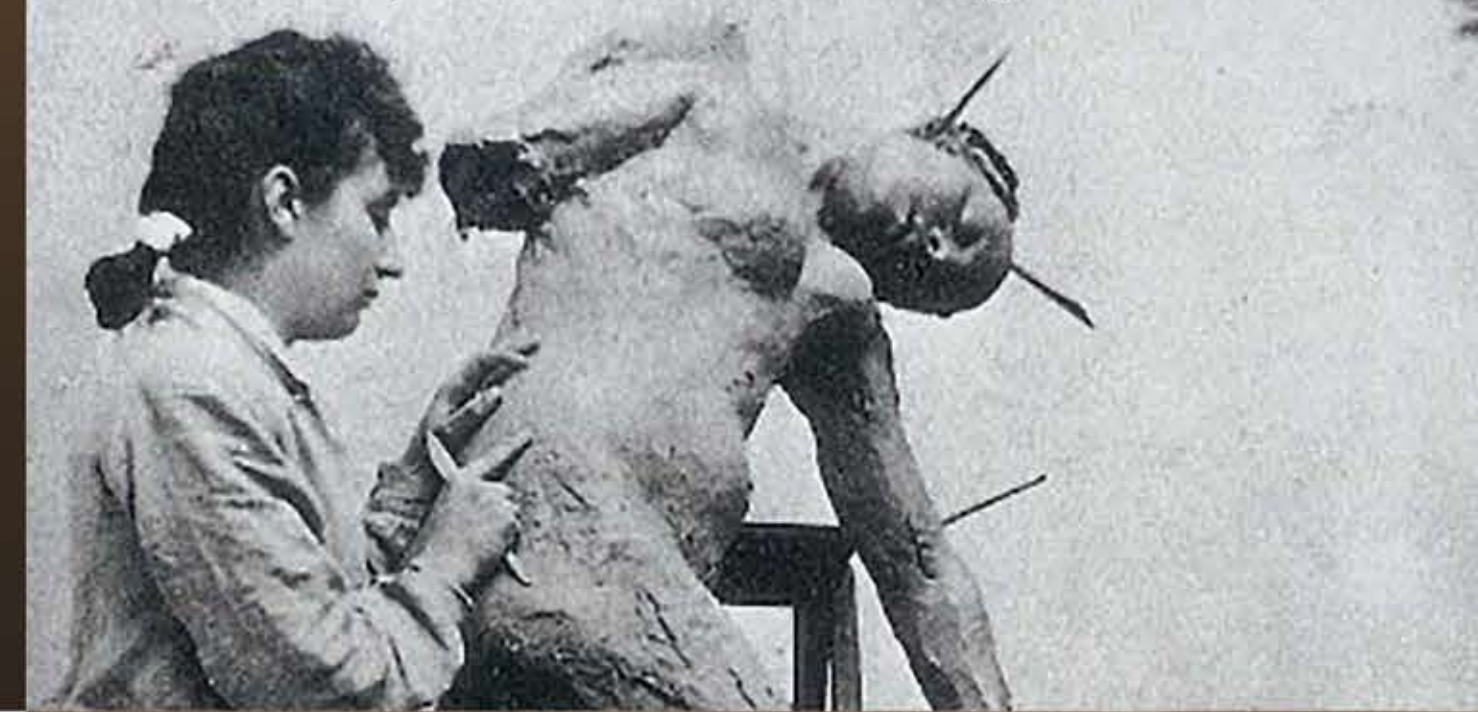
The plaster model of *The Age of Bronze*, the first full-scale figure Rodin exhibits publicly, is shown at the Cercle Artistique in Brussels and then at the Salon in Paris.

# 1880

The French state commissions a cast of *The Age of Bronze* and a decorative gate for the planned Musée des Arts Décoratifs. Rodin will continue to work on these gates, *The Gates of Hell*, for the rest of his life and many of his well-known sculptural groups will emerge from them, including *The Thinker* and *The Kiss*.

# 1882

Rodin meets the sculptor Camille Rosalie Claudel (1864-1943). Claudel becomes Rodin's student, assistant, model, and romantic partner.



# 1885

On January 28, Rodin wins the commission for the monument honoring heroes of Calais.

# 1889

Rodin wins further monumental commissions, one for a monument to the writer Victor Hugo for the Panthéon and another to Claude Lorrain for the city of Nancy.

# 1891

In July, the Société des Gens de Lettres commissions Rodin to sculpt a monument to honor the writer Honoré de Balzac for the Palais-Royal.

# 1893

Philanthropist Samuel P. Avery gives *St. John the Baptist* to the Metropolitan Museum of Art (the Met) in New York, marking the first acquisition of the artist's work by a US museum.

Rodin exhibits five sculptures at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago.



# 1894

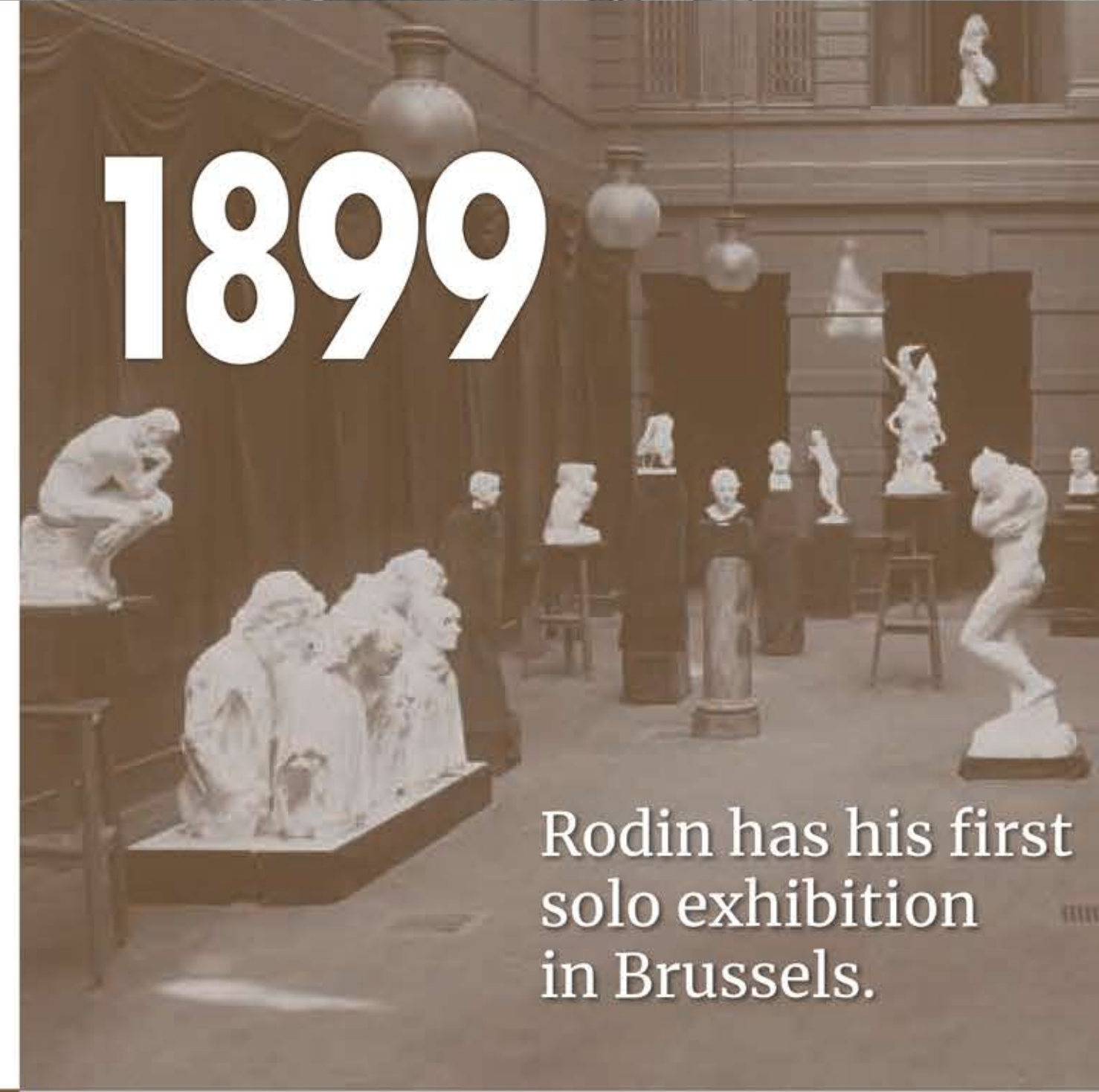
Rodin moves to Meudon, which will become his primary residence.

# 1898

*Monument to Balzac* and *The Kiss* are exhibited at the Salon. *The Kiss* is favorably received, whereas *Balzac* is met with scandal and rejected by the Société des Gens de Lettres.

Also this year, having already ended their romantic relationship, Rodin and Claudel cut all remaining personal and professional ties.

# 1899



Rodin has his first solo exhibition in Brussels.

# 1900

Rodin mounts a retrospective of his work in a pavilion built in the Place de l'Alma in Paris.



# 1912

On May 2, the Rodin gallery opens at the Met. It is the first gallery at the museum dedicated in its entirety to a living artist.



# TODAY

Rodin continues to enter major private and public collections, and to be the subject of numerous exhibitions held in the United States through the rest of the twentieth century and up to the present moment.



# 1916

Rodin bequeaths his estate to France with the understanding that the state will purchase the Hôtel Biron and turn it into a museum dedicated to the artist. He also grants permission for his works to be cast in bronze.

# 1917

Rodin and Rose Beuret marry on January 29. Beuret dies on February 14 and Rodin dies on November 17. They are buried in Meudon with *The Thinker* as their monument.



# 1919

The Musée Rodin in Paris opens its doors to the public for the first time, on August 4.

# 1929

The Rodin Museum opens in Philadelphia on November 29.



# 1954

A bronze copy of Rodin's *Monument to Balzac* is given to the Museum of Modern Art in memory of New York gallerist Curt Valentin.



# 1981

*Rodin Rediscovered* opens at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC. The exhibition includes more than three hundred objects and is so popular that it is extended by three months. By the end of its run, more than one million people have visited the exhibition.