

# MUSÉE RODIN PARIS

## MAPPLETHORPE—RODIN

### 8 APRIL-21 SEPTEMBER 2014

#### PRESS RELEASE

**“I see things like they were sculptures. It depends on how that form exists within the space”.**

**Robert Mapplethorpe**

In a single exhibition, the Musée Rodin brings together two forms of expression – Sculpture and Photography – through the works of two major artists: Robert Mapplethorpe and Auguste Rodin. Thanks to exceptional loans from the Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation, this exhibition presents 50 sculptures by Rodin and a collection of 102 photographs, in a bold dialogue revealing the enduring nature of these great artists' favourite themes and subjects.

There would appear to be little similarity between these two renowned figures, even though Mapplethorpe continually sought to sculpt the body through photography and Rodin used photography throughout his career.

Robert Mapplethorpe sought the perfect form, while Rodin attempted to capture a sense of movement in inanimate materials. There is no spontaneity in Mapplethorpe's work, everything is constructed, whereas Rodin retains the traces of his touch and takes advantage of the accidental. One was attracted to men, the other to women, obsessively in both cases. But this did not stop Mapplethorpe from photographing female nudes, or Rodin from sculpting many male bodies.

Here, however, the differences between these two artists are instantly transformed into an unexpected dialogue. The curators have chosen seven themes, common to the work of both, revealing connections in form, theme and aesthetic. Movement and Tension, Black and White/Light and Shadow, Eroticism and Damnation are just some of the major issues running through the works of the two artists.

This exhibition invites visitors to challenge the dialogue established by the curators, and to make their own comparisons. This “sculpture and photography” approach is unprecedented in a sculpture museum such as the Rodin museum. It's the first time such a confrontation has been presented at the musée Rodin, and looks at both photography and sculpture from a new angle.

In parallel with this, the Réunion des musées nationaux is organising a *Mapplethorpe* retrospective at the Grand Palais, from 22 March to 14 July 2014.

#### **Exhibition curators**

Hélène Pinet, Head of Photography Collections at the Musée Rodin

Judith Benhamou-Huet, Art critic and journalist

Hélène Marraud, Assistant curator, responsible for sculptures at the Musée Rodin

#### **Catalogue**

Text by Hélène Pinet, Hélène Marraud, Judith Benhamou-Huet, Jonathan Nelson

| 22 x 28 cm | 256 p. | 200 color.ill. | Éditions du musée Rodin / Actes Sud | 2014 | about 40 €



Robert Mapplethorpe,  
*Michael Reed*, 1987, 1728.  
credit Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation.  
Used by permission



Auguste Rodin,  
*The Walking Man*, bronze, 1907, S.998.  
Credit musée Rodin

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#### **Musée Rodin**

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M<sup>o</sup> Varenne  
Closed on Mondays  
Open 10 am to 5.45 pm  
Late night opening  
on Wednesdays until 8.45 pm

#### **Programme and tickets**

[www.musee-rodin.fr](http://www.musee-rodin.fr)

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