



France 18th century

formerly attributed to:

ROLAND, Philippe-Laurent

Pont-à-Marcq, Nord 1746 - Paris 1816

Unknown maker, possibly Belgian

Groupe allégorique avec le buste d'un architecte

Allegorical Group with a Bust of an Architect

1780-1800

terracotta

group

26 ³/₈ x 16 ⁷/₁₆ x 14 ³/₈ in.

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Los Angeles, California, The J. Paul Getty Museum

www.getty.edu/museum

Bibliography

- Museum's website, 22 March 2012 and August 7, 2018

1997 Fusco

Peter Fusco, Summary Catalogue of European Sculpture in The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, The J. Paul Getty Museum, 1997, p. 43, repr.

Exhibitions

- 2011-2012 Los Angeles

Images of the Artist, Los Angeles, The J. Paul Getty Museum at the Getty Center, November 15, 2011-February 12, 2012

Comment

Museum's website, August 7, 2018:

A gracefully posed young woman gestures towards a portrait bust that stands in the center of a large pedestal. Two children attempt to clamber up the pedestal while a dog rests in the back on the base. Around the pedestal, the attributes of an architect--T-square, compass, globe, books, and drawings--are casually placed, composing a still life.

While the bust may be a portrait of an unidentified architect, the other figures are allegorical. The dog is a traditional symbol of fidelity, while the two children are symbols of their potential for instruction, referring to the moral, ethical, and utopian roles given to architects in this period. Although the use of allegory recalls tomb monuments, the piece speaks in a celebratory mode, honoring the architect with the classicizing vocabulary of the bust form and an elevated base adorned with garlands and fretwork molding. Similarly, rather than suggesting a mournful tone, the figures' poses suggest familial intimacy, particularly the young woman's informal leaning posture and her arm around the back of the bust.

The work was made in several pieces that were joined together before firing. Except for the woman's head, which is hollow, each of the figures is made of solid clay.
