



CHINARD, Joseph

Lyon, Rhône 1756 - Lyon, Rhône 1813

La famille du général Guillaume-Philibert Duhesme

(1766-1815)

The Family of General Guillaume-Philibert Duhesme (1766-1815)

c. 1801-1805

terracotta

group

22 ¹/₁₆ x 13 ³/₁₆ x 27 ⁹/₁₆ in.

on the front of the daybed: chinard statuaire a lyon

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www.getty.edu/museum

Bibliography

- Museum's website, accessed 22 March 2012 and August 6, 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. 18, repr.

Comment

Museum's website (accessed December 16, 2016):

With a melancholy air, an elegant woman and her young son contemplate the medallion portrait of

an absent husband and father. While the affectionate child nuzzles his mother's arm, she props up the medallion on her elegant Empire style daybed. Sculptor Joseph Chinard paid great attention to stylish details such as elegant furniture and the woman's hairstyle and dress. Although he included such popular artistic conventions as a revealed breast, he also expressed her deep longing through her gentle manner and intense look. To make this love theme explicit, the artist used symbolic props such as the putti on the sides of the bed. The putto on the right represents earthly/sensual love, while the one on the left, with his eyes bound shut, represents heavenly/spiritual love. Together they hold the rope that symbolically binds the family together.

Chinard created this keepsake for the French Duhesme family, using a format traditionally reserved for tombs, where the medallion identifies the deceased. Since the figure represented in the medallion, General Philippe Guillaume Duhesme, was still living when this sculpture was made, the medallion signifies absence rather than death.
