



**LIPCHITZ, Ossip/Jacques**

Druskieniki, Lithuania 1891 - Capri, Italy 1973

*Toréador*

*Toreador*

1914-1915

bronze

statuette

31  $\frac{3}{4}$  x 9  $\frac{3}{4}$  x 10 in.

signed lower left corner : Lipchitz

Acc. No.: 52.21

Credit Line: The John Cowles Foundation Fund

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### **Provenance**

- 1952, The John Cowles Foundation Fund

### **Bibliography**

- Museum's website, October 15, 2015

### **Exhibitions**

- 1997 Madrid/Valencia  
Jacques Lipchitz, Madrid, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, May 20-September 2, 1997; Valencia, IVAM, Centre Julio Gonzalez, September 18-November 30, 1997, ill. p. 84

2001-2002 Champaign

Lipchitz and the Avant-Garde: From Paris to New York, Champaign, Krannert Art Museum and Kinkead Pavilion, September 15, 2001-January 6, 2002, no. 10

2010 Bilbao

Tauromachies : From Myth to Ritual, Bilbao, Museo de Bellas Artes de Bilbao, June 7-September 5, 2010

## **Comment**

Museum's website (accessed 26 January 2016):

After he arrived in Paris in 1909, Lipchitz became part of the artistic community of the Montparnasse, which also included Modigliani, Brancusi, and temporarily Epstein. Having met Picasso in 1913, Lipchitz was amongst the first sculptors to extend the principles of cubist painting into the third dimension. In 1914 he took a trip to Madrid and Mallorca together with Diego Rivera. During this stay, Lipchitz begun work on some models for Spanish-themed sculptures, including the Toreador, which he finished after his return to Paris in 1915. According to the artist's own account, the bronze was inspired by the famous bullfighter, José Gómez Ortega, known as Joselito el Gallo ('Little Joe the Rooster'). Still a teenager, Joselito introduced a new daredevil technique into bullfighting, which required him to remain statue-like during the bull's charge, and avoid the deadly horns by a surprise move in the last split-second. To the amazement of all Spain, Joselito remained victorious for years and years, until a bull stabbed him to death in 1920, at age 25.

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