



(Mina Kirstein, class of 1918)

LACHAISE, Gaston

Paris 1882 - New York City, New York, United States 1935

Figure de jardin

Garden Figure

c. 1927-1931 modeled; c. 1935 cast
cast concrete

statue

overall: 79 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 28 x 17 $\frac{1}{4}$ in.

Acc. No.: SC 1982:22

Credit Line: Gift of Mrs. Henry Tomlinson Curtiss

Photo credit: Collections Database, fivecolleges.edu

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[Northampton, Massachusetts, Smith College Museum of Art](#)

www.smith.edu/artmuseum

Provenance

- 1982, Gift of Mrs. Henry Tomlinson Curtiss (Mina Kirstein, class of 1918)

Bibliography

- Collections Database, Five Colleges and Historic Deerfield Museum Consortium (accessed March 6, 2017)

Comment

Museum's website (6 March 2017):

"At twenty, in Paris, I met a young American person who immediately became the primary

inspiration which awakened my vision and the leading influence that has directed my forces. Throughout my career, as an artist, I refer to this person by the word "Woman." Gaston Lachaise The "Woman" who was to be Lachaise's lifelong muse was Isabel Dutard Nagel. Lachaise followed her back to America from France, establishing himself as a sculptor of portrait busts of prominent members of society. His preferred subject, however, was the female form. "Garden Figure", cast after the artist's death, epitomizes Lachaise's passionate, single-minded pursuit of female beauty. The simplified lines of the figure are like those of his modernist contemporaries. Yet, the gesture of the hand under the breast is reminiscent of pre-classical goddess statues. This sculpture simultaneously embodies the nurturing and erotic qualities of femininity, a modern interpretation of the ancient mother goddess.
