

*Bust of Diana*, Falguiere, Jean Alexandre Joseph, 68.74.1

TITLE: Bust of Diana  
ARTIST: Jean Alexandre Joseph Falguière  
DATE: 19th century  
MEDIUM: Bronze, marble base  
DIMENSIONS: 16 1/2 in. (41.91 cm)  
CREATION PLACE: Europe, France  
CREDIT LINE: Gift of David M. Daniels  
ACCESSION NUMBER: 68.74.1  
LOCATION: G319



Gallery Label

John Bradstreet acquired a cast of Falguiere's bust of Diana shortly after its creation. He displayed it prominently in his Minneapolis apartment, as seen atop a pedestal in the adjacent portrait by Douglas Volk. In 1968 a donor gave an example of this popular bronze to the Institute, reuniting Bradstreet with the goddess. Derived from a larger composition, Diana's otherworldly status is only indicated through the half-moon atop her head.

Artist's Biography

\*Falguiere is little known today, but was highly regarded in France during the late 1880s.

\*Falguiere was born in Toulouse in 1831 to working class parents and entered the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in 1854.

\*He won the Prix de Rome in 1859 and spent a number of years there. Some of his best known works were probably begun there.

\**The Winner of the Cockfight*, (shown below) won at the Salon of 1864 and was acquired by the state and shown at the Exposition Universal of 1867 where it took first prize. Funny fact: when table-size casts were made, a discrete fig leaf covered the winner's genitals.

\*In 1882 he became a professor at the Ecole des Beaux -Arts and also operated a large and successful studio. He also painted and did architectural studies. He was honored with the Legion of Honor and a one-man show of his work was held at the Nouveau-Cirque in 1898. He died in 1900.

\*Falguiere sculpted more than 30 busts. He worked both from live models and photographs. He, like Rodin, was criticized for making his models look life-like....did he

make a plaster cast of their faces??? Much of his work in his later years produced commemorative statues suitable for town squares.

\*The Lafayette monument in Lafayette Square, Washington, D.C. is the work of Falguiere. He beat out Bartholdi (Statue of Liberty) for the commission.

\*While some critics state that he never achieved the status of his inventive contemporary, Rodin, Falguiere's work is still respected and can be found at auction at Southey's and Christie's showing the founder's mark: 'Thiebault Freres', 'Fernier & Guirgnot Frs Paris.'

\*Today there is a Falguiere stop on the Paris Metro.

### The Work

Falguiere exhibited a full length terra cotta Diana in the Salon of 1882 to much acclaim. Five years later he exhibited a full length Diana in marble for the Salon. It was so popular, that busts in marble and bronze were made in many sizes from seven inches to thirty nine inches. As mentioned, as recently as 2011, there were a half a dozen available at auction, and, in March 2012, one can find them on Ebay!

Falguiere also cast a full figure *Diana with Bow*, and a similar *Hunting Nymph*. The Diana theme was one of his favorites. (See below) His mythological women are portrayed more modern than ancient. He was criticized for showing Diana as nude in her role as chaste goddess which no man could view.

Falguiere is quoted saying to a friend: "I create a Diana because Dianas are successful!"

The most interesting aspect of the MIA bust of Diana is its connection to Bradstreet and Volk and the MIA, somewhat like 'seven degrees of separation.' "Bradstreet, who was one of the founders of the MIA and designed the Duluth Room, had a Bust of Diana in his apartment. Volk painted it (it is on the tall wooden pedestal) in his portrait of Bradstreet. A donor gave a Falguiere *Bust of Diana* to the MIA."

### Possible Tour Questions

1. Take a moment to look at this woman's head.
2. How has the sculptor created her to look mythological and modern, real and ideal?
3. What might this woman want us to think about her?
4. Who might this woman be? What career does she have?

### Tours

Sculpture



Mythology  
Women in Art  
Symbolism  
Strapless by Deborah Davis,  
tour about Sargent's *Madame X*.



book

*Winner of the Cockfight, 1864*

*Diana with Bow, c. 1882*

## The Myth of the Goddess Diana

From the online New World Encyclopedia:

In Roman mythology, **Diana** was the goddess of the hunt, mythologically similar to the Greek goddess Artemis. The daughter of Jupiter and Latona, Diana was born with her twin brother Apollo on the island of Delos.

A goddess of both chastity and fertility, and also of the moon, Diana's cult became popular throughout the ancient Roman empire, both among the nobility and the lower classes. She was the patron of slaves, who could find sanctuary in her temples, and of women seeking to conceive healthy children. Eternally young and beautiful, she was known to possess a quick temper and fiercely defended her virginity.

Often portrayed with bow and arrow and accompanied either by a deer or hounds, Diana was the goddess of both wild and domestic animals. Her temple in Ephesus was one of the wonders of the world.

In later centuries, Diana figured in European myths of the female Wild Hunt. During the Renaissance, she became a popular figure in art, poetry, and drama. More recently, her early role as a strong female deity has been examined in academic discussions of the history of religions, and she has inspired a branch of the neo-pagan religion. She is an archetype of the competent, free-spirited, independent female.

## Diana/Artemis Stories.....from D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths

1. Zeus married the goddess Leto. When Hera found out that Leto was expecting twins she chased Leto to the island of Delos where she gave birth to Artemis and Apollo. Artemis was born first and was "as beautiful as the moon, with hair as dark as the night...Apollo was born next and he was as "fair as the

sun.” Zeus gave each of them a silver bow and a quiver full of arrows. “The arrows of Artemis were soft as moonbeams and brought painless death.” Artemis begged Zeus to promise her that she would never have to marry so she could remain a wild maiden spending her days hunting. Zeus agreed and gave her four hinds with silver antlers and 50 nymphs.

2. Possibly the most familiar Diana/Artemis story is the one about Actaeon. He came upon Diana and her nymphs while they were bathing. Compelled by her beauty he gazed upon her whereupon she splashed him with water and he gradually turned into a stag. He could not call off his hounds and they attacked and killed him. (Recall the Titian painting.)

3. Orion, son of Poseidon, was a great hunter and he always praised Artemis as the greatest of all hunters. Artemis enjoyed hunting with Orion and he was the only one she ever favored. One day when they were hunting on the island of Crete, Apollo became jealous of him and sent an enormous scorpion to attack Orion. Despite Orion’s club and sword, the scorpion’s poisonous tail stung Orion in the heel. Artemis was angry with Apollo for killing her companion. He then helped her hang Orion’s image in the skies so he would never be forgotten.



Lafayette Square, Washington, D.C.



Falguiere