

Flight of Night, 1961

By Paul Manship, American (1885-1966)

Bronze

82.15

G359

No Gallery Label

Key Points:

- Paul Manship was born and raised in St. Paul and attended art school here. At 18 he began further studies in New York, where he primarily lived and worked for the rest of his life.
- He began as a painter, but discovered he was colorblind...began sculpting.
- Manship was inspired by classical art after studying in Europe after he won the prestigious Prix de Rome. The Prix de Rome is an arts scholarship program which began in France in 1663, awarding to promising young art students in the areas of sculpture, painting and architecture. The award has now expanded to include engraving and music. At 23 he was the youngest sculpture ever to win the prize.
- Hallmark: Bronze sculptures which reflect the influence of ancient Greek & Roman art and/or allegory with a contemporary flair.
- The Greeks and Romans had many gods that represented natural phenomena. Here, in Flight of Night, a young woman gracefully leaps over a sphere that may represent earth, bringing darkness and starts to half of the globe.
- Instead of a sketchbook, he carried a cigar box filled with toothpicks and paraffin wax wherever he went. He used these portable tools to try new ideas and work out problems in tiny, three-dimensional scale.
- Manship's most recognizable work is most likely his gilded bronze "Prometheus" at Rockefeller Center. (image at end of document)



Questions:

- Would you consider this sculpture more modern or classical? Why?
- What shapes or forms do you see? Where? (square, circle, sphere, crescent, triangle, etc)

Tour Suggestions:

Minnesota Artists

Made in America

Mostly Modern

Inspiration and Influence

Manship's "Prometheus" at Rockefeller Center, NYC



Submitted by Susan Rouse