

SINGER LAREN

PRESS RELEASE
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SINGER LAREN to restore *The Thinker* by Rodin

Singer Laren has taken the next step leading to the restoration of *The Thinker* by Auguste Rodin. The work will be carried out by the University of Amsterdam's Department of Conservation and Restoration in the Ateliergebouw (the Rijksmuseum's new conservation studio) in the Dutch capital. The restoration aims to recover the external appearance of the seriously damaged sculpture.

Rodin's *The Thinker*, along with six other bronze statues, was stolen from the sculpture garden of Singer Laren on 17 January 2007. It was recovered two days later much the worse for wear. A committee of external experts deliberated on the future of *The Thinker* and concluded that the statue is well worth restoring so that it can regain its symbolic value for the collection of Singer Laren. The committee recommended that *The Thinker* be subject to a responsible and supervised reversible restoration with as few interventions as possible.

In the restoration process, questions into the sculpture's original history and shape, the ethics of restoration and the materials used will be crucial and weighed constantly in the decision-making. A committee of experts will supervise the restoration process. In the future, the restored statue will occupy a place in the permanent collection of the museum, and its history will be profiled in its presentation.

The 'Ateliergebouw' (Studio-building) in Amsterdam is a joint undertaking of the Netherlands Institute for Cultural Heritage, the University of Amsterdam and the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. In the course of the restoration, intensive collaboration will be sought with the Musée Rodin in Paris. The restoration will take place in 2009 and is expected to be completed in 2010.

The supervisory committee Restoration of *The Thinker* is comprised of:

Dr. Jan Piet Filedt Kok, *Chairman*

Former Director of the Collections and Chief Curator, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam; former Professor of Studio Practices and Material Technical Research, University of Amsterdam

Dr. Arjan de Koomen

University Lecturer on Conservation & Restoration Training, University of Amsterdam
Expert on sculpture

Robert van Langh

Chief of Conservation & Restoration, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam
Expert on metal restoration

Janine van Reekum MA
Metal restorer and adviser on restoration projects
Expert on metal restoration and the organisation of this professional field

Ysbrand Hummelen
Senior Researcher, the Netherlands Institute for Cultural Heritage
Expert on restoration ethics

Dr. Hans van der Weijde
Department Manager of Packaging Applications, Corus
Expert on metal compounds

Dr. Louk Tilanus
Art Historian, Institute for Art History, University of Leiden
Expert on Rodin

photo:
Auguste Rodin (1840-1917)
The Thinker (*Le Penseur*), 1881
Bronze, height 71 cm.
Collection Singer Laren
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