

***Medal Portraits: The Spectacle of Bronze.* A new exhibition dedicated to the commemorative medal will take place next March in Girona (Catalonia), offering an overview of the portraits with European and American examples.**

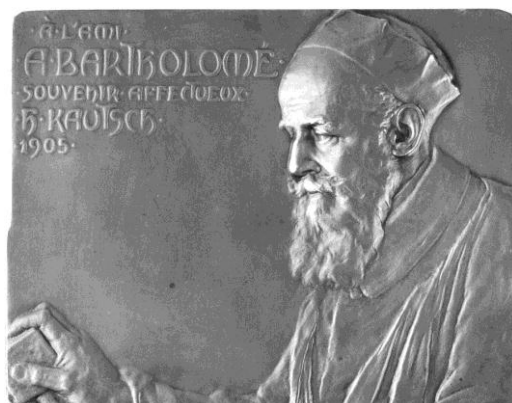
From the 21st of March to the 12th of September 2015, the Girona-based Rafael Masó Foundation presents the exhibition “Medal Portraits: The Spectacle of Bronze”, displaying over 350 commemorative medals from between 1880 and 1935, dates of the birth and death of the architect Rafael Masó, a period that coincides with the renaissance that this art experienced in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.



Hector Berlioz, composer, Centenary of his birth, Georges Dupré, 1903, 67 x 48 mm, bronze, © Jordi Puig photography, 2014
Margo Lenbach, Heinrich Kautsch, 1905, 32 ø mm, silver, © Jordi Puig photography, 2014

The show includes a significant number of pieces from the Eclecticism, Art Nouveau and Art deco periods, when medals enjoyed extraordinary popularity in society, becoming testaments to every aspect of public and private life.

The exhibition is focussed on portraits and presents both faces as well as busts and full figures, with examples from the creators who inspired the Art Nouveau generation, such as French artists Jules-Clément Chaplain, Oscar Roty and Jean-Baptiste Daniel-Dupuis, as well as the foremost exponents of this movement, from Alexandre Charpentier to Ovide Yencesse, Louis Bottée and Hippolyte Jules Lefebvre.



Albert Bartholomé, sculptor, À l'ami A. Bartholomé, Heinrich Kautsch, 1905, 77 x 98 mm, bronze, © Jordi Puig photography, 2014
Flora, Porteuse de fleurs, Pierre Turin, 1926, 72 x 72 mm, bronze, © Jordi Puig photography, 2014

France was, along with Belgium, Germany and Austria, one of the main countries where this medal renaissance took place. In those years it evolved around figures such as the Belgian Godefroid Devreese, the German Luise Federn-Staudinger, the Czech Stanislas Sucharda, the Austrian Rudolf Marschall and the Catalan Eusebi Arnau. These names emerged, along with their portraits, from among hundreds of medal creators, all seeking to represent both their subject's appearance and personality.



Flora, Raoul Benard, c. 1930, 60 x 59 mm, bronze, © Jordi Puig photography, 2014



Fishes, The fishing, Charles Virion, c. 1930, 50 ø mm, bronze, © Jordi Puig photography, 2014

The show is structured into six sections dealing with the main themes: “A Homage to Remember” centres on portraits that honoured people; “The Face of the Country: Monarchies and Republics” is concerned with an institutional perspective; “The Faces of War” remembers the many faces of conflicts; “Symbology in Religious Portraits” reveals their spiritual message; “Allegories, or the Modern Classic” is devoted to the myriad allegorical representations, some new at that time, such as photography and sport; and finally “They Too Are Portrayed” engages with different animals, likewise portrayed for their character and physiognomy.

What: “Medal Portraits: The Spectacle of Bronze”

Where: Fundació Rafael Masó, Girona (Catalonia), Spain

When: From the 21st of March to the 12th of September 2015

Who: Rossend Casanova, Numismatist and exhibition curator

More info from March: www.rafaelmaso.org