

Baltimore's own Louis Rosenthal now has an Online Museum

In 1923 the Royal Society of Miniature Painters changed their name/charter to the Royal Society of Miniature Painters & Sculptors solely to allow in one American: Louis Rosenthal

May 16, 2011

GENERAL PRESS RELEASE:

Re: Art News / Louis Rosenthal Museum www.louisrosenthalmuseum.org

Baltimore's own Louis Rosenthal (1888 – 1964) received international acclaim for creating miniature sculptures, many no more than an inch in height. Utilizing a simple pearl-handled penknife as his sole tool he built up his tiny figures from wax and cast them into bronze himself as no foundry anywhere in the world could work with figures so small.

From 1920 to 1950 Louis Rosenthal maintained an art studio on Charles Street in Baltimore City. A MICA graduate, his miniature sculptures received international acclaim and his works appeared in museums worldwide including New York, London and Jerusalem.

Dignitaries, celebrities and artists from around the world traveled to the modest studio on Charles Street to see the art and meet the man who locally was fondly referred to as 'the artist who carries a museum in his pocket'. Even Mae West visited him in his studio on Charles Street!

Sharon Quigley-Rosenthal, granddaughter of Louis Rosenthal created an online museum as a tribute to her grandfather so once again the world can share in the joy of viewing the miniatures. "The historical, mythological, spiritual, musical, and often satirical significance of his miniatures expands a vast terrain and it is striking to watch the miniatures he created many years ago be given a new life today." – Sharon Quigley-Rosenthal.

Many Baltimore homes are adorned with Rosenthal miniatures and people are thrilled to discover the online museum which introduces them to the history of the miniatures they have in their homes.

"The Louis Rosenthal Museum is a photographic compilation of statuettes, sprinkled with reflections, passages and remembrances that have lifted themselves up and spoken to me with the desire to remain to be heard." – Sharon Quigley-Rosenthal.

Museums and galleries in London, New York, Washington D.C., and Jerusalem exhibited his works. He held exhibitions at the Baltimore Museum of Art, the Walters Art Gallery, the Corcoran in D.C., the Metropolitan Museum in New York, and many other art galleries in New York. Greatly admired in England, he held exhibitions at the Gieves Art Gallery, the National Gallery and the Gibbs Gallery in London.

Permanent collections of his works reside at many museums today including the Baltimore Museum of Art, the Smithsonian, the Jewish Museum of Maryland, the Jewish Museum of New York, and the Maryland Historical Society. "What I remember most as a child was walking into Haussner's Restaurant with my parents and hearing their delight at the surprise of seeing a few of the tiny miniatures sitting in display cases surrounded by the larger types of paintings and artwork that made up the environment of the restaurant." – Sharon Quigley-Rosenthal.

The online museum includes the page: Casting Wax into Bronze: A handwritten note is posted which is written by Bernard Rosenthal, the son of Louis Rosenthal, which details the process of how Rosenthal casted his miniatures into bronze.

In addition to hundreds of miniatures Rosenthal also created larger works which include the Lindbergh Memorial, the Monument to Balfour, The Zohar, and figures of Edgar Allan Poe, Beethoven and Mae West.

The Lindbergh Memorial, known as "The Spirit of St. Louis" is one of Rosenthal larger works yet has 85 miniatures contained within in. A symbolic group of 85 figures depicts Charles Lindbergh's triumph including a record of the historical amity between France and America. Two were cast, one in gold and one in bronze and presented to the Lindbergh family and the government of France.

He fulfilled many local commissions in Baltimore as well including a miniature for the Greek Embassy in D.C.; The Dental Centenary Medallion commemorating the 100th anniversary of the first dental school in the world in Baltimore; The Dawn of American Freedom commemorating Maryland's 330th anniversary; and bronze plaques for Governor Albert C. Ritchie and Douglas H. Thomas, Johns Hopkins University architect of Gilman Hall.

Ms. Quigley-Rosenthal will be having an exhibition of the miniatures in the U.K. (Wells, England) this month (May 27 – June 5) and she is interested in seeking out locations here in Baltimore to exhibit and display the sculptures. **The miniatures are not for sale and the online museum is set up simply as a tribute to her grandfather and to preserve the history of the famous Baltimore artist.** Exhibition information is listed on the website.

Her future ambitions include designing a book on her grandfather which would be comprised of a photographic compilation of his works as well as setting up a permanent physical location for the Louis Rosenthal Museum. For now, the online museum can be visited at www.louisrosenthalmuseum.org

Contact: Sharon Quigley-Rosenthal
sharon@louisrosenthalmuseum.org
443-280-1105
Baltimore, MD, USA

Additional Information:

The recently published book, "Modern Masters of Miniature Art in America" by Wes Siegrist refers to Louis Rosenthal as "the father of miniature sculpture."

In 1924, the Jacques Seligmann Gallery on 5th Avenue in New York City exhibited a collection of 40 of his miniature sculptures for the first time. The next morning as Rosenthal stood alongside a person holding a New York Times he was quietly astonished to discover his name was in the headlines of the Art Review Column. Unable to lavish 2 cents on the newspaper he ran 38 blocks to the reading room of The New York Public Library where he read an art critic's praise of his work. He later learned that almost all 40 of his miniatures were sold that evening. During the 1920's, other galleries in New York City continued to exhibit his miniatures.

A partial review of that first exhibit in 1924 is reprinted here: *An extraordinary exhibition, which would undoubtedly cause the great Cellini a quarter of an hour's anxiety were he to venture to the Jacques Seligmann Galleries at this moment, reveals the talents of Louis Rosenthal, whose remarkable miniature sculpture is being introduced to New York by Mrs. Marie Sterner.....there is nothing quite like this minuscule manifestation of art to be seen today.* (Reprinted from "A Collection of New York Reviews from 1924 – 1926" which can be found on the Art Reviews Page at www.louisrosenthalmuseum.org)