



Drama Queen

Though known as an actress, Sarah Bernhardt sculpted more than 50 works; 20 are known today. Always dramatic, Bernhardt posed for photographs wearing her “sculptor’s outfit,” which included a long lace-trimmed jacket, trousers, and low-heeled pumps.



Après la tempête (After the Storm), ca. 1876

Take a closer look

Sarah Bernhardt (1844-1923) transformed cold marble into smooth and wrinkled skin, frothy sea foam, and a coarse fishing net. Complex both in technique and narrative, critics believe this sculpture is Bernhardt's most ambitious work.

Something to talk about

In *Après la tempête*, a woman from the north coast of France cradles her grandson after a storm at sea has passed. Look carefully at Bernhardt's handling of the figures. What evidence suggests this story might have a happy ending? A tragic one?

Who knew?

Ever the eccentric, Bernhardt kept a menagerie of animals in the walled garden of her London home. In fact, she sold this work to purchase a cheetah, a wolf, and six chameleons—one of which rode on her shoulder.

Sarah Bernhardt, *Après la tempête (After the Storm)*, ca. 1876; White marble; 29½ x 24 x 23 inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of Wallace and Wilhelmina Holladay; Photograph by Lee Stalworth

