

Young Girl with a Sheaf



Amazing Grace

In *Young Girl with a Sheaf*, Camille Claudel depicted a female nude leaning against a bundle of wheat. Claudel was able to study from nude models, rare for a 19th-century woman. As a result, she rendered the human form with intimacy and grace.



Young Girl with a Sheaf, ca. 1890

Take a closer look

Camille Claudel (1864-1943) originally modeled this piece in clay and then cast it in bronze. Looking closely, we can see where she manipulated the clay to achieve different textures.

Something to talk about

Both Claudel and Sarah Bernhardt (1844-1923), whose marble sculpture is nearby, were active in the last quarter of the 19th century. Their works highlight two distinct styles yet share some similarities. What do they have in common? How are they different?

Who knew?

Claudel studied and collaborated with noted French sculptor Auguste Rodin. Scholars believe she contributed to some of his works, including *The Burghers of Calais* and *The Gates of Hell*.

Camille Claudel, *Young Girl with a Sheaf*, ca. 1890; Bronze; 14 $\frac{1}{8}$ x 7 x 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of Wallace and Wilhelmina Holladay; Photograph by Lee Stalworth

