



Eja Siepman van den Berg (Eindhoven 1943)

Standing girl

Circa: 1972

1972

Bronze

III/IV E.A.

120 x 35 x 26 cm (47 1/4 x 13 3/4 x 10 1/4 inches)

Signed: eja 1972

Bronze sculpture 'Standing girl' by Dutch artist Eja Siepman van den Berg (1943). Siepman studies poses and translates these movements into images with a perfectly smooth surface, as in this case of a young girl: Marjolein van Raalte. This sculpture is described in the magazine *Fragment* (issue 16, 2019). Siepman considers this sculpture to be the key piece of her career. In this piece, she discovers the characteristic style in which she continues to work for the rest of her oeuvre. At the bottom, this artwork is signed 'Eja 1972' and 'Binder Bronze Foundry'. This work is an early version. It was executed in a small edition of seven. Siepman won several awards, including the Prix de Rome in 1967, the Charlotte van Pallandt prize in 1978 and the Wilhelmina Ring in 2017. Her works are in both museum and private collections. In addition, her sculptures are exhibited in public spaces, including in Dordrecht, Groningen and Leeuwarden. There is a similar bronze sculpture in the collection of the House of Representatives.

Literature

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Artist description:

Dutch sculptor Eja Siepman van den Berg (Eindhoven, 1943) developed her distinctive visual program during the early 1970s. Her representations of the (female) human body in bronze and stone witness her interest in a harmonious figuration and the principles of abstraction.

Figurative Abstraction

In its figurative appearance, Eja Siepman van den Berg's sculpture deals with questions of balance and proportion, of symmetry, and the intrinsic quality of her materials. But categorizing her work as merely figurative, falls short of its qualities. It seems more appropriate to refer to her work as a well-considered and reasoned 'figurative abstraction'.

This also explains her broad interest: in early Greek Kouroi, the subdued male statuary from 600 B.C., and in twentieth-century sculptors as Constantin Brancusi, George Minne and American Minimalist Donald Judd.

Beauty in Standstill

Eja Siepman van den Berg seeks for a clarity in form, omitting the mere decorative and superfluous. What remains, is sculpture devoid of 'meaning' in the traditional sense of the word. Her sculpture is free of anecdotes and personal histories, and cautiously refrains from the highly-individual. Instead, her torso's and head- and armless figures convey a universal and timeless beauty. Beauty in standstill.

Eja Siepman van den Berg was educated at the Amsterdam Rijksacademie (1962-1967) and was awarded the prestigious Prix de Rome in 1967. In 1978, she was the first awardee of the Charlotte van Pallandt Prize, named after the eminent Dutch sculptress of the twentieth century, Charlotte van Pallandt.

Works by Eja Siepman van den Berg can be found in the Netherlands' major museums. Her projects for public space were realized in major Dutch cities, such as Amsterdam, Leiden, The Hague, and Leeuwarden, among others.