

Artist Resources – Constantin Brâncuși (Romanian, 1876 – 1957)

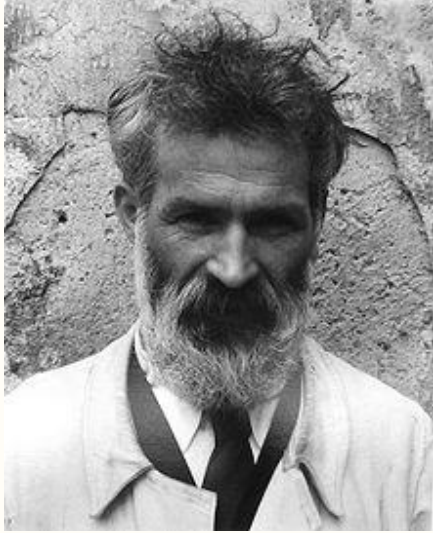
JORDAN SCHNITZER **MUSEUM OF ART**

[Brâncuși at the Guggenheim](#)

[Brâncuși at the Tate](#)

[Brâncuși at MoMA](#)

[Brâncuși at Kasmin Gallery](#)



Brâncuși, 1922
Photograph: Edward Steichen

Learn about [Brâncuși's Paris studio](#), which was reconstructed across from the Centre Pompidou in 1997.

Constantin Brâncuși was organized by the Centre Pompidou in 1995 and traveled to the [Philadelphia Museum of Art](#), its only American venue. Read a [review](#) of the exhibition in the Los Angeles Times.

The Tate Modern was the first museum in the United Kingdom to launch a major exhibition of Brâncuși's work. [Constantin Brâncuși: The Essence of Things](#) was on view in 2004.

In 2014, [The Brâncuși Effect](#) was on view at Kunsthalle Wien in Karlsplatz. The exhibition presented original works by Brâncuși alongside a group of contemporary artists who reference him in their own work.

[The Guggenheim Museum](#) installed a long-term rotation of Brâncuși works in their permanent collection in 2017.

[Constantin Brâncuși: Sculptures, Drawings, Photographs, Films](#) was on view at the Multimedia Art Museum, Moscow, in 2017, on loan from the Centre Pompidou.

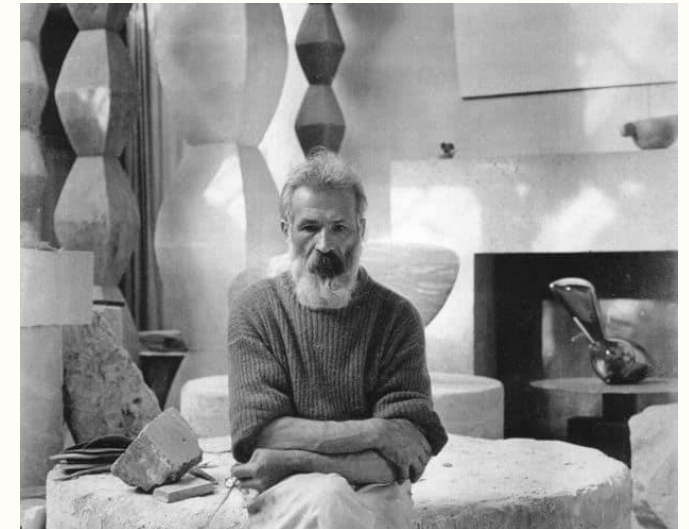
In 2018, the Museum of Modern Art installed [Constantin Brâncuși](#), which reflected on the first show of the artist's work in the United States at the 1913 Armory Show. The exhibition was accompanied by a [playlist](#) the curators put together featuring selections from the artist's extensive collection of music.

[Brâncuși](#) was on view at BOZAR Centre for Fine Arts Brussels in 2019, the first solo exhibition of the artist's work in Brussels.

The Muzeul National de Artă Timisoara installed [Brâncuși: Romanian Sources and Universal Perspectives](#) in 2023, the largest exhibition of the artist's work in Romania in over 50 years. Read a [review](#) written by Judith Benhamou.

[Brâncuși: Carving the Essence](#) was on display at the Artizon Museum in 2024. It was the first museum exhibition in Japan to present a comprehensive story of the artist's life and work.

In 2024, the Centre Pompidou launched [Brâncuși](#), a major exhibition featuring nearly 200 sculptures, along with photographs, drawings, films, archives, tools, and furniture from his studio. Read a preview article about the exhibition in [The Art Newspaper](#) and reviews in both [The Guardian](#) and the [Wall Street Journal](#).



Brâncuși in his studio, unknown date
Photograph: Radio Romania Cultural

Constantin Brâncuși (Romanian, 1876-1957)

Le premier cri (The First Cry), c. 1917

Partially gilded bronze with patina, red-brown varnish, and possibly jeweler's rouge, Ed. of 3

Private Collection; L2025:65.1

Constantin Brâncuși moved to Paris in 1904, where he was instrumental to the development of Modernist sculpture. In 1913, the artist carved a free-standing, full-length figure called *Le premier pas (The First Step)* for a solo exhibition at Alfred Stieglitz's Photo-Secession Gallery in New York. Brâncuși later destroyed the body and kept the head, leading to a series of works with simplified, egg-shaped heads inspired by infancy and childhood. **Le premier cri (The First Cry)** reflects the moment of birth, when a newborn first experiences the shock of reality. The sculptor saw his work as the embodiment of creation itself, saying: "With this form I could move the universe."

On view June 30 – October 3, 2025





Constantin Brâncuși (Romanian, 1876-1957)

La muse endormie, 1910 (cast by 1913)

Patinated bronze with gold leaf

Private Collection; L2024:31.7

Born and raised near Târgu Jiu, Romania, Constantin Brâncuși studied at the Bucharest School of Fine Arts before moving to Paris in 1904. He quickly became known for his abstracted, hand-carved works that were instrumental to the development of Modernist sculpture in Europe. **La muse endormie** was first produced in clay and stone as an upright portrait of the Baroness Renée Frachon. Brâncuși later cast six bronzes of the stylized oval face from the original marble sculpture and tilted it on its side to evoke a sleeping woman. The artist added gold leaf to the surface by hand, saying: “An artist should always do his own chores. A sculptor’s toil is slow and solitary.”

On view June 12 – September 15, 2024