



22.5 x 29.5 cm, 280 pp.  
 200 colour illustrations  
 softcover with flaps  
 French edition  
 ISBN 978-88-7439-684-9  
 €39.00  
 co-published with the Musée d'Art et  
 d'Histoire, Geneva

#### Exhibition

Musée d'Art et d'Histoire, Geneva  
 from June 20 to September 28, 2014

## RODIN

### L'ACCIDENT | L'ALÉATOIRE

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**“The master’s thoughts, even his writing, are clear to see. It is a work that no apprentice, no retouching has dishonoured. It is the sculptor’s initial emotion, his true work, his soul’s soul.” Mathias Morhardt (speaking about *The Tragic Muse*)**

As the father of modern sculpture, Auguste Rodin (1840–1917) showed the way to the leading artists of the twentieth century. Although certainly making an impact in the way he focused on the fragment and the importance he attributed to leaving a work unfinished, he also breathed new life into the medium by introducing the idea of the evanescent and the accidental. Rodin was happy to take advantage of the results of pure chance and to let elements that had nothing to do with any personal initiative help him create his intended effect. The accidental became part of the creative process.

The exhibition on which this book is based took advantage of the extraordinary involvement of the Musée Rodin to explore a new theme through some twenty-four sculptures gathered around *The Tragic Muse*, donated to the Musée d'Art et d'Histoire of Geneva by Rodin himself.

**François Blanchetière** is a curator of cultural heritage and has been deputy head of conservation at the Musée Rodin since 2005.

**Christina Buley-Uribe** is an art historian and the author of essays on Rodin’s drawings.

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