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[CORDIER, Charles](#)

Cambrai, Nord 1827 - Algiers, Algeria 1905

Maker: Eck et Durand

Vénus africaine

African Venus

1851

bronze and gold (earrings)

bust

15 ⁹/₁₆ x 8 in.

Acc. No.: 54.2665

Credit Line: Museum purchase, 1991

Photo credit: The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore

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[Baltimore, Maryland, The Walters Art Museum](#)

thewalters.org

Provenance

- New York, Shepherd Gallery
- 1991, Walters Art Museum, by purchase

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Bibliography

- Museum's website, May 20, 2013



Exhibitions

- 1995 Baltimore

The Allure of Bronze, Baltimore, The Walters Art Gallery, 1995

1998-2001 Baltimore

Highlights from the Collection, Baltimore, The Walters Art Gallery, 1998-2001

2002-2004 Kansas City/Charlotte/Baltimore

A Magnificent Age: Masterpieces from the Walters Art Museum, Baltimore. Kansas City, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art; Charlotte, Mint Museum of Art; Baltimore, The Walters Art Museum, 2002-2004

Comment

Museum's website, May 20, 2013:

Cordier submitted a plaster cast of the bust of an African visitor to Paris to the Salon of 1848, and two years later he again entered it as a bronze (Walters 54.2664). A young African woman served as the model for this companion piece in 1851. Regarded as powerful expressions of nobility and dignity, these sculptures proved to be highly popular: casts were acquired by the Museum of National History in Paris and also by Queen Victoria. The Walters' pair were cast by the Paris foundry Eck and Durand in 1852. These bronzes were esteemed by 19th-century viewers as expressions of human pride and dignity in the face of grave injustice.

