



Jupiter as the Bull

Date

1931, cast 1986

Primary Maker

Donald De Lue

Medium

Bronze on marble base

Description

Donald De Lue was an important figure in the American Art Deco movement of the 1930s and '40s, which was characterized by a use of industrial materials; a focus on finish; the fusion of traditional and classical motifs; and subjects with geometric forms derived from Cubism. Although De Lue was commissioned to create major public statues and architectural elements, he also designed smaller sculptures like this one. He was especially skilled in rendering anatomy; this example reflects his expert understanding of muscle, form, and movement, in particular. The bull's fuller, rounder, and more stylized form reflects a shift from strictly classical imagery towards a more modern style. The artist drew from Classical mythology to add a symbolic layer to his work. The subject of this sculpture is derived from an ancient Greek myth in which the god Zeus, also known as Jupiter, disguised himself as a bull in order to trick and capture the goddess Europa.

Dimensions

Overall: 24 3/4 x 18 1/2 x 7 1/4 in. (62.9 x 47 x 18.4 cm)