



THE HAND OF GOD (1917)

Auguste Rodin's *The Hand of God* is the central sculpture in the Centinela Valley Community Hospital's Court of Honor. Rodin sculpted a large hand holding an irregular rock from which two small embracing figures emerge. The artwork may be read as a metaphor for creation, with the creator's hand symbolizing a sculptor and the figures evoking Adam and Eve. Art historians have cited this piece as a pivotal bridge for Rodin's symbolic and realistic artistic interests. Rodin was quoted as saying "When God created the world, it is of modeling he must have thought first of all".

Rodin's enlarged hands series were compositions started toward the end of his career. His titles including *The Hand of God*, *The Hand of the Devil* (1903), *The Cathedral* (1908), and *The Secret* (ca. 1910) were applied to several thematic variations in marble and bronze. One of them is at the Rhode Island School of Design Museum and the other is in the Musée Rodin in Paris, a third in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

Artist:
Auguste Rodin

Collection:
Centinela Valley Community Hospital

Medium:
Sculpture

Material:
Bronze on a marble base

Dimensions:
17" high x 16" wide x 16" deep

Centinela Valley Community Hospital
555 East Hardy Street
Inglewood, California



Auguste Rodin

Auguste Rodin was one of the most renowned and prolific sculptors in the world. Born in 1840 into a poor family in France, he lacked the resources to have his sculptures cast in the then-standard bronze. He modelled his artworks in clay and earned income and skills by assisting other sculptors. He briefly worked at Sévres Porcelain as a designer.

Rodin's globally noted artworks include *The Thinker*, *The Gates of Hell*, and *The Burghers of Calais* and *Balzac*. He was extremely prolific, creating thousands of original artworks and many editioned cast bronze sculptures in multiple sizes. His work was unconventional for the time as he featured partial figures that appearing to be unfinished. Rodin is often credited as being the first modern artist blending traditional and modern approaches.

When he achieved fame and financial stability, Rodin maintained a large studio. He trained other artists including Constantine Brancusi. He visited America for the Chicago World's Fair in 1893, and his work began to be acquired by many of the major American collectors of the day. Auguste Rodin died in 1917.