

Louis-Jacques Guigues, *Nocturne*
Bessèges 1867 – 1943 Montpellier

White marble titled: '*Nocturne*' on the front, and signed by: '*L.-J GUIGUES*'
18 ³/₄ by 14 ⁵/₈ by 13 ¹/₄ inches (47.5 by 37 by 33.5 cm.)

provenance: Jacques Fischer and Chantal Kiener, Paris, 1987;
Private collection, France

exhibited: Paris Salon of 1904, number 2953.

note: Louis –Jacques Guigues was a pupil of Alfred Boucher and then Auguste Rodin. Boucher, who won the Grand Prix du Salon in 1881, provided inspiration and encouragement to the next generation of sculptures such as Guigues, Laure Coutan, and Camile Claudel. Before moving to Florence in 1881, Boucher asked Rodin to take over the instruction of his pupils. This is how Rodin and Claudel met and their tumultuous and passionate relationship began.

Guigues became the director of the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Montpellier, where from 1922-1925 he was the teacher of the sculpture Germain Richier.

The present 1904 Salon piece, entitled *Nocturne* depicts the life-size head and hair covered shoulders of a female figure, eyes closed, emerging from a swirling block of stone. She is a perfect personification of Night.