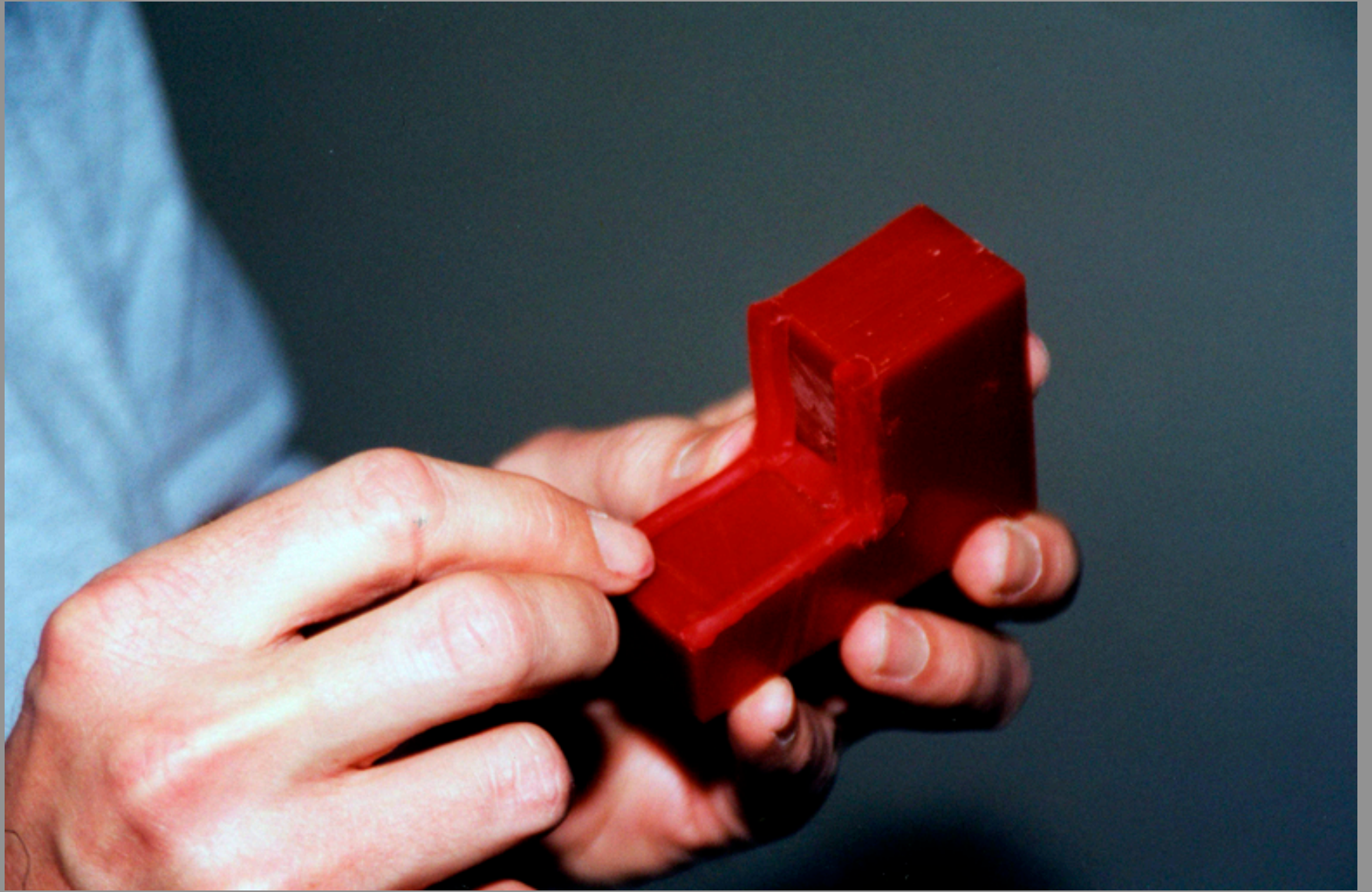
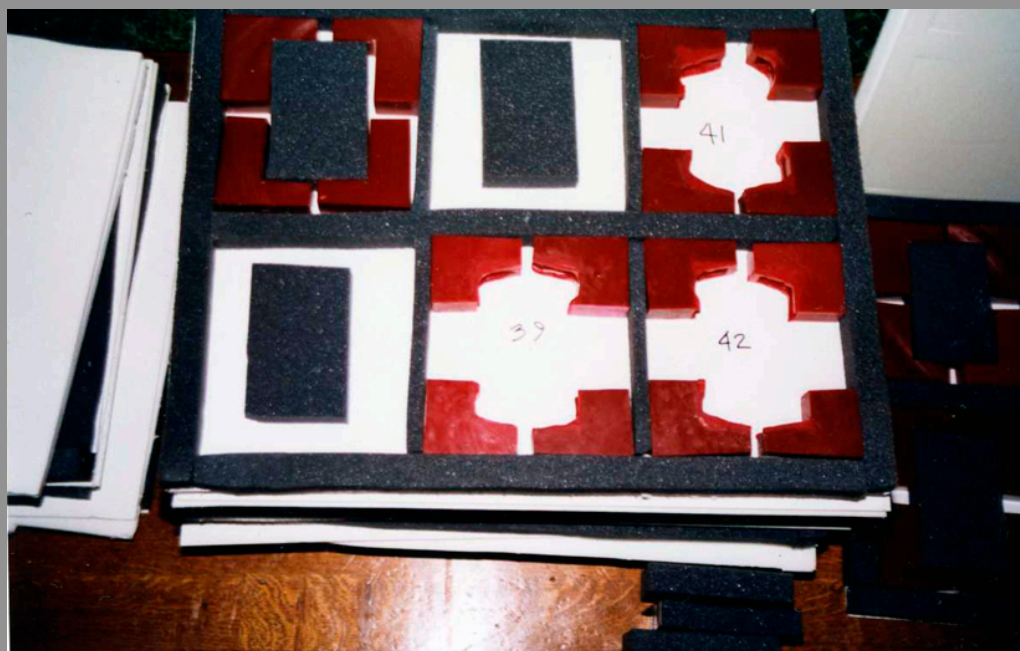
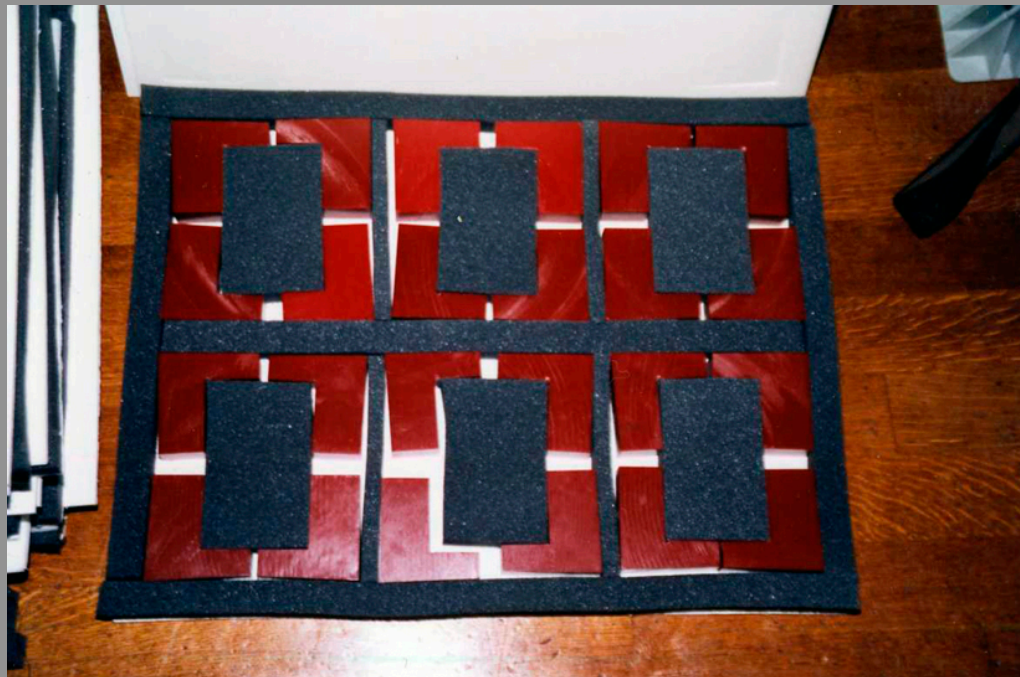


Cast Bronze Mounts
at the J. Paul Getty Museum

Decorative Arts and Sculpture
Conservation Department







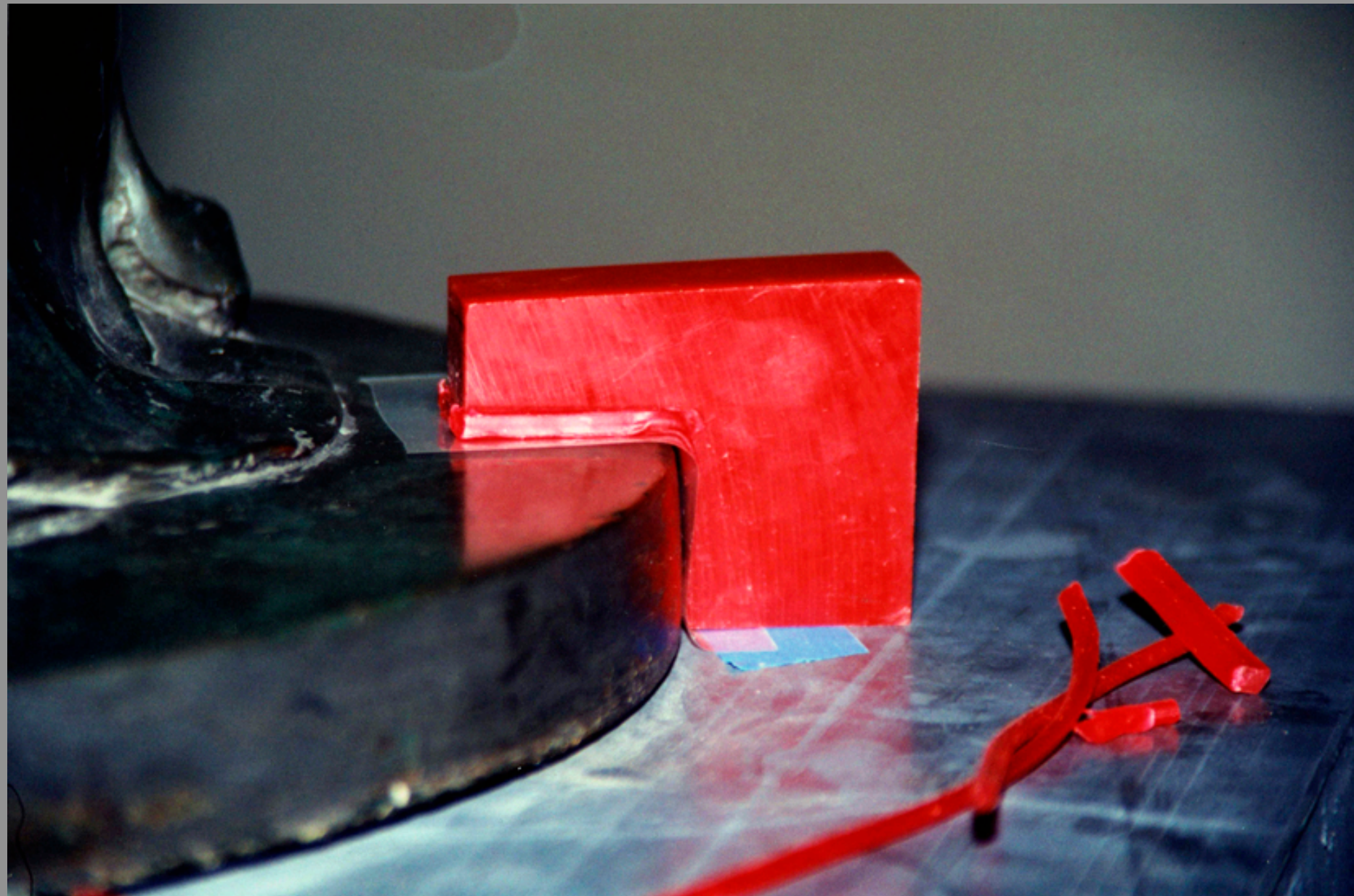






























- 10. Österreich
- 11. England
- 12. Mittel- u. Ost-Europa
- 13. Südliche Staaten
- 14. Spanien
- 15. Nordamerika
- 16. Südamerika
- 17. Ost-Asien
- 18. Japan
- 19. Ost-Indien
- 20. Süd-Indien
- 21. Australien
- 22. Süd-Asien
- 23. Nord-Asien
- 24. Skandinavien
- 25. Russland
- 26. Türkei
- 27. Griechenland
- 28. Italien
- 29. Frankreich
- 30. Deutschland

Informational text block with a small image of a building.



JEAN-ANTOINE HOUDON

1741–1828

Sculptor of the Enlightenment

Jean-Antoine Houdon captured the spirit and intellectual tenor of the Enlightenment in his portraits of the period's most compelling figures.

Often called the Age of Reason, the Enlightenment spanned the eighteenth century and was a time of intense intellectual exchange in the sciences, arts, philosophy, and politics. Houdon is celebrated for his startlingly lifelike portraits of the most important figures of the day, including members of European courts and citizens of the fledgling American republic. His depictions of aristocrats, magistrates, scientists, writers, musicians, philosophers, financiers, and political and military heroes vividly evoke a turbulent period in European history.

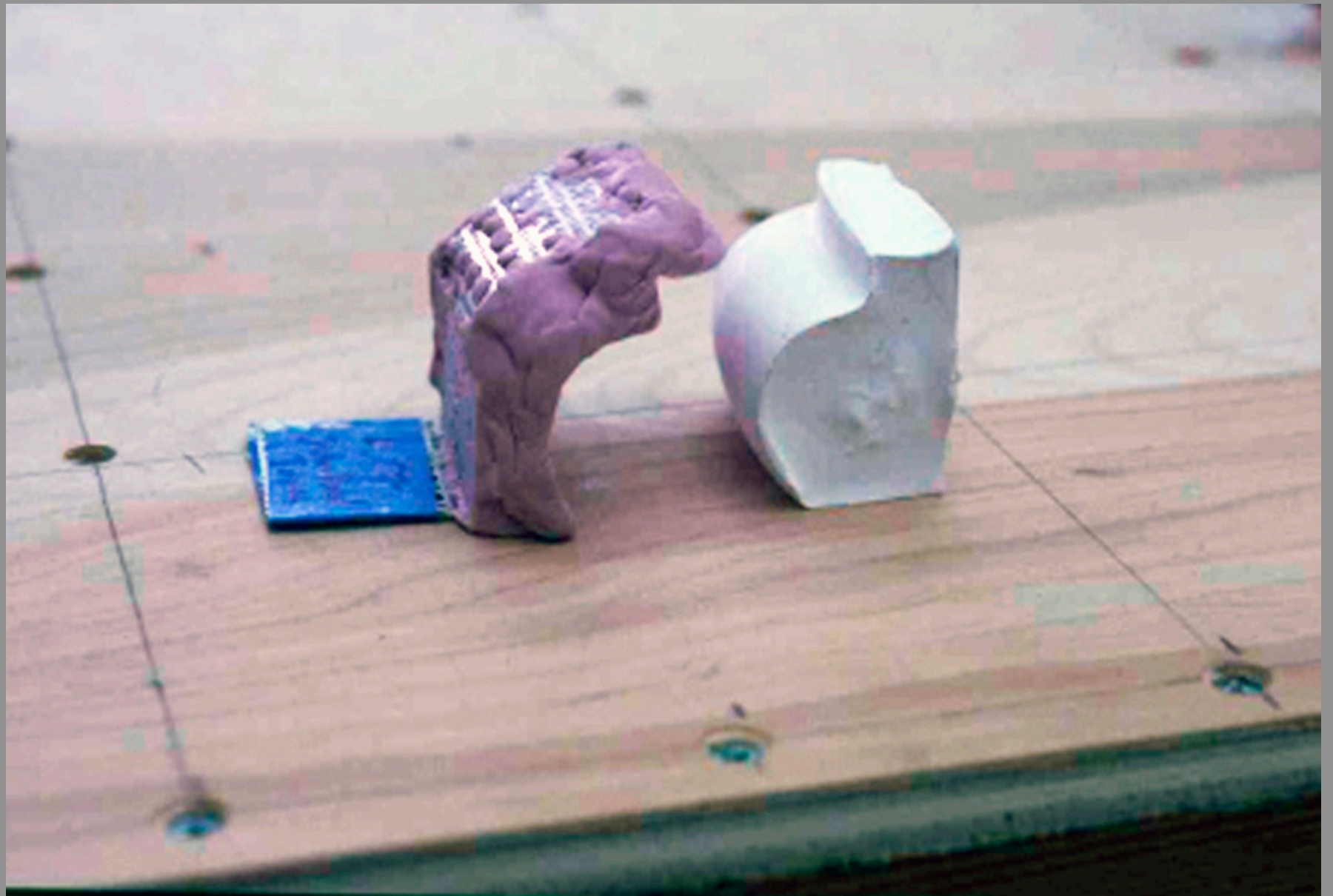
Houdon studied ancient art and anatomy in Paris and Rome during the 1760s. After returning to France in late 1768, he quickly became the preferred sculptor of influential figures such as the philosopher Denis Diderot, who promoted Houdon's work in Enlightenment circles. Using the kind of empirical study favored by his peers, Houdon often

made life (or death) masks of his subjects that helped him create realistic portraits, which he imbued with profound psychological expression.

During the tumultuous times leading up to the French Revolution, Houdon executed some of his most compelling portraits, including busts of women and children that convey spontaneity and intimacy. He received commissions for mythological and allegorical statues as well as for tomb sculptures. Although he had fewer patrons after the Revolution, Houdon continued to be active until the end of Napoléon's reign. This exhibition presents sculptures in terracotta, plaster, marble, and bronze, revealing the full range and quality of his prodigious artistic activity.

This exhibition is organized by the J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles; the National Gallery of Art, Washington; and the Réunion des musées nationaux, Paris, and l'Établissement public de musée et du domaine national de Versailles. This exhibition is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.























ARTISTS OF THE ENLIGHTENMENT

By the mid-1700s the social status of artists, writers, composers, and actors had risen to equal that of scientists and philosophers.

...artists as artists in their own right were seen as
...of their own kind, and the more themselves,
...the more they were seen as artists, and the more
...the more they were seen as artists, and the more
...the more they were seen as artists, and the more

