'Diana of the Tower', A Bronze Figure

inscribed DIANA OF THE TOWER and © A. SAINT GAUDENS MDCCCXC and stamped COPYRIGHT BY AUGUSTUS SAINT-GAUDENS MDCCCXC

21¾ in. (55cm.) high from top of head to toe, 36¾ in. (93.7cm.) total height including bow and tripod base, rich reddish brown patina

PROVENANCE
Private Collection, New York

LITERATURE
J. H. Dryfhout, 'Diana', Metamorphoses in Nineteenth Century Sculpture, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1975, pp. 201-213
K. Greenthal, Augustus Saint-Gaudens: Master Sculptor, Boston, Massachusetts, 1985, pp. 23, 138-141, pl. VIII, fig. 143

The monumental figure of Diana was originally conceived in 1886 as a weathervane for the tower of Stanford White's Madison Square Garden. The eighteen-foot figure proved oversized, unwieldy and imbalanced. In 1892, it was removed from the site. The figure was then installed atop the McKim, Mead and White pavilion at the Columbian Exposition, where it was partially burned in a fire.

Saint-Gaudens revised his model and, in 1894, a second version was placed atop the Madison Square Garden tower. A mere thirteen feet high, it is now in the collection of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. This landmark sculpture was so notorious and popular that Saint-Gaudens immediately copyrighted the model and produced an edition of hand-modelled reductions in two sizes with variations in details such as the base, sphere, bow and hair.

$200,000-300,000

Sold $242,000