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978-0-521-46147-4 - Visualizing Labor in American Sculpture: Monuments, Manliness,
and the Work Ethic, 1880-1935
Melissa Dabakis
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VISUALIZING LABOR IN AMERICAN SCULPTURE

Visualizing Labor in American Sculpture focuses on representations of work, from the decade in which the American Federation of Labor was formed, to the inauguration of the federal works projects that subsidized American artists during the Great Depression. In both monumental form and small-scale edition, these sculptures provide a public record of attitudes toward labor during a transitional period in the history of relations between labor and management. Melissa Dabakis argues that sculptural imagery of industrial labor was both shaped by and helped shape belief systems about the nature of work and the role of the worker in modern society. By situating a group of important sculptures within a context of labor history, gender studies, and American art history, her book addresses key monuments and small-scale statuary in which labor was often constituted as “manly” and where the work ethic mediated both artistic production and reception.

Melissa Dabakis is Associate Professor of Art History and Co-Director of American Studies at Kenyon College. A recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the J. Paul Getty Grant Program, she has contributed to *American Quarterly* and *Prospects: An Annual of American Cultural Studies*.

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MELISSA DABAKIS

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CAMBRIDGE
 UNIVERSITY PRESS

32 Avenue of the Americas, New York NY 10013-2473, USA

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

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 education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

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Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521461474

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First published 1999

First paperback edition 2011

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Dabakis, Melissa.

Visualizing labor in American sculpture : monuments, manliness,
 and the work ethic. 1880-1935 / Melissa Dabakis.

p. cm. – (Cambridge studies in American visual culture)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-521-46147-2 (hb)

1. Labor in art. 2. Sculpture, American. 3. Sculpture.
 Modern – 19th century – United States. 4. Sculpture, Modern – 20th
 century – United States. I. Title. II. Series.

NB1952.L33D24 1999

730'.973—dc21

98-45452

CIP

ISBN 978-0-521-46147-4 Hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-28327-4 Paperback

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For C.D. and R.E.Y.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the debt that I owe to others for their help and encouragement in the researching and writing of this book. Nonetheless, it is a difficult task, I admit, to provide sufficient gratitude to all those who offered support over the many years of this project's existence. My best efforts follow. This book would not have been possible except for the generous support from Kenyon College Faculty Development Grants, an ACLS Grant in Aid, an NEH Travel to Collections Grant, an NEH Fellowship for College Teachers and Independent Scholars, and a J. Paul Getty Fellowship in Art History and the Humanities. Visiting scholar appointments in the Art History Department of Boston University and at the Center for Literary and Cultural Studies at Harvard University greatly facilitated the final stages of research for this book.

In excavating primary and secondary sources, I traveled to archives, libraries, and museums all over the country. I wish to acknowledge the staffs of the following institutions who provided indispensable research assistance: the Albright Knox Art Gallery, the American Swedish Historical Museum; the Archives of American Art; the Art Institute of Chicago; the Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley; the Boston Museum of Fine Arts; the Boston Public Library Special Collections; the Brooklyn Museum; the Chicago Historical Society; Columbia University Special Collections and Archive; the George Meany Memorial Archives; the Harvard University Libraries; the Labadie Collection at the University of Michigan; the Metropolitan Museum of Art; the National Academy of Design; the National Museum of American Art at the Smithsonian Institution; the National Sculpture Society; the New York Public Library; the Newark Museum; the Newberry Library; the Pennsylvania Capitol Preservation Committee; the Philadelphia Museum of Art Archives; the Ryerson Library at the Art Institute of Chicago; the Taniment Library at New York University; and the Worcester Art Museum.

Many friends and colleagues read or heard drafts of the manuscript in its multiple manifestations or spoke to me at length about different aspects of the book. I have very much appreciated their thoughts, comments, and criticisms, and I hope that their concerns have received the appropriate attention. My thanks go to William J. Adelman, Mildred Albronda, Michele Bogart, Harry Brod, Julie Brown Clifton Crais, Wanda Corn, Linda Docherty, Eugene

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Dwyer, Betsy Fahlman, Ellen Furlough, James Gilbert, Archie Green, Brian Greenberg, Barbara Groseclose, Ruthann Hubbert-Kemper, Patricia Johnston, Sura Levine, Joanne Lukitsch, Lucy Maddox and the editorial committees of *American Quarterly*, Janet Marstine, Garnett McCoy, the Newberry Seminar in American Social History, Robert Reynolds, Jr., Peter Rutkoff, Pamela Scully, Roger Stein, Cecelia Tichi, Alan Wallach, Cécile Whiting, and Rebecca Zurier. My special thanks goes to Ellen Todd who read the entire manuscript with attention and care and helped me corral its diverse conceptual strands into a more coherent structure. Patricia Hills, the editor of the American Visual Culture series at Cambridge University Press, offered her invaluable scholarly expertise while supporting this project from its very genesis. To them both I am especially indebted. Donna Maloney provided enormous technical support in the last stages of the manuscript preparation. Beatrice Rehl, fine arts editor at Cambridge, helped shepherd this book through all stages of the publication process. And, finally, my special thanks and gratitude are reserved for my husband, Daniel Younger, photographer, editor, and one-man support network.

Portions of this book have previously appeared in abridged and revised form in various journals:

“The Individual vs. the Collective: Images of the American Worker in the 1920s.” *IA: The Journal of the Society for Industrial Archeology* 12 (2) (1986): 51–63.

“Formulating the Ideal American Worker: Public Responses to Constantin Meunier’s 1913–1914 Exhibition of Labor Imagery.” *The Public Historian* 11 (Fall 1989): 113–32.

“Martyrs and Monuments of Chicago: The Haymarket Affair.” *Prospects: An Annual of American Cultural Studies*, Jack Salzman, ed., Vol. 19 (1994): 99–135.

“Douglas Tilden’s *Mechanics Fountain*: Labor and the ‘Crisis of Masculinity’ in the 1890s.” *American Quarterly* 47 (June 1995): 204–36.

“Representing the AFL: *The Samuel Gompers Memorial*.” *Labor’s Heritage* (December 1997): 4–21.