



FREDERICK REMINGTON

American, 1861-1909

*Bronco Buster*, modeled 1894, cast 1918

Bronze

City of Davenport Art Collection

Gift of Mrs. Alfred C. Mueller in memory of her husband, 1963.1071

## Bronco Buster



**Frederic Remington** (1861–1909) Son of a Union Army cavalry captain in the Civil War, Frederic Remington was born in Canton, New York and became one of Yale University's first art students. Classical studies, however, could not hold his interest. Following his father's death, the young man took his inheritance, left Yale and headed for the western frontier. There he quickly became acquainted with the cowhands, Native American tribes and cavalymen of the Great Plains. Knowing the railroad system would soon reach the Old West, Remington set out to record a vanishing way of life.

### A product of its time

Artists in the 19th century portrayed a romanticized image of Western Expansionism, ignoring the atrocities that happened on the frontier. Cowboys became popular content as heroes of the west. By the late 19th century, when this piece was created, artists were attempting to capture these images as the frontier was quickly disappearing, replaced with a landscape of roads and rising cityscapes. Remington's realistic and accurate sketches were featured in publications like *Harper's Weekly*. During the course of his life he created more than 3,000 signed drawings and paintings.

### Take a closer look

Remington initially created each of his 22 sculptures in clay. He would then send the sculpture to a foundry and have the pieces cast into bronze. Notice the fine details capturing the explosive movement of the bucking horse and clinging rider.

### Did you know?

An original cast of *Bronco Buster*, created around 1903, is displayed at the White House in the Oval Office.

### On your own

Frederick Remington Art Museum: <http://www.fredericremington.org>

Sterling and Francine Clark Institute of Art exhibition: <http://www.clarkart.edu/exhibitions/remington/content/exhibition.cfm>