

COLLECTIONS IN THE CLASSROOM

Andromache & Astyanax by Edward Valentine, 1893



ERA

Late 19th Century, Post-Reconstruction

THEMES

Violence, Lost Cause

CITATION

Andromache & Astyanax , 1893, Edward Valentine, EVV.93.01, The Valentine

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- Describe this sculpture.
- Why might Edward Valentine consider this sculpture to be his masterpiece?
- Why do you think this statue's interpretation became associated more with the American Civil War than the Trojan War?

CONTEXT

This life-sized Neoclassical sculpture was created by Edward Valentine and exhibited at the Chicago World's Fair Columbian Exposition in 1893. For Valentine, it represented a masterpiece depicting the figures of Andromache and Astyanax, mother and her soon-to-be-killed son from a popular Greek myth. The female figure is shown as a mother who has lost her father, brothers, and husband and will soon lose her son to the Greeks during the Trojan War. Soon after its exhibition, scholars began to call the sculpture a "monument to the Confederate Woman." The linking of this classical sculpture and the threat to Southern womanhood furthered the Lost Cause myth and the idea that white women were vulnerable and needed protection, even if it meant violence.

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