

# ADRIAN ALAN

*Fine Art & Antiques*



**Odoardo Tabacchi (Valganna 1831 - Milan 1905)**

## **'La Tuffolina' - An Important White Marble Figure of A Diving Girl**

Circa: Circa 1880

106 x 74 x 24 cm (41<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 29<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches)

Marble

Italy

1880

Signed 'O.Tabacchi/Torino'.

'La Tuffolina' - An Important White Marble Figure of A Diving Girl On A Naturalistic Base, by Odoarda Tabacchi

This fine marble sculpture depicts a graceful young girl wearing a knitted bathing dress, her hair held in a chignon with her arms raised above her head in a diving position, standing on the edge of a natural pool, with the waves lapping behind her.

Dynamic and full of natural grace, this figure proved to be one of Tabacchi's most popular sculptures and was edited in a number of sizes, in both bronze and marble.

First exhibited in marble at the Esposizione d'arte di Napoli del 1877, it was reportedly purchased by King Vittorio Emanuele II and illustrated in L'illustrazione Italiana, No 23, June 10, 1877, in an engraving based on a sketch by Michetti.

It was subsequently exhibited with great acclaim at the 1878 Paris Exposition Universelle and examples were also produced in ceramic, including Parian ware examples by the English firm of Robinson & Leadbenton.

A comparative marble version is in the collection of the Museo di Capodimonte, Naples.

### **Exhibitions**

Esposizione d'arte di Napoli del 1877.  
Paris Exposition Universelle, 1878.

### **Literature:**

A. Panzetta, Dizionario Degli Scultori Italiani dell'ottocento e del Primo Novecento, Torino, 1994, vol. II, p. 185, no. 769 for an illustration of a similar model.

### **Artist description:**

Odoardo Tabacchi (1831-1905) was born in Valganna on December 20, 1831 and died in Milan in 1905.

Tabacchi studied at the Brera Academy in Milan from 1845 and then continued his studies in Rome, Florence and Naples. Settled in his own studio in Milan from 1860-1868 he created monumental sculptures accepting several important public commissions. Among his most important works from this period are the monument to Cavour in Milan (with Antonio Tantardini), the monument to Arnaldo da Brescia and the Cuzzetti and Sedaboni tombs in the Vantiniano cemetery in Brescia, Paleocapa, Garibaldi in Turin, Foscolo and equestrian monument to Umberto I, in Asti in Piazza Cairoli.

In 1867 he succeeded Vincenzo Vela to the chair of sculpture at the Albertina Academy and focused on smaller figurative sculpture, especially naturalistic genre scenes which earned him great popularity. He exhibited widely in Italy and in Paris and Vienna.

Amongst his students he counted: Giacomo Ginotti (1845-1897), Pietro Canonica (1869-1959), Davide Calandra (1856-1915), Edoardo Rubino (1871-1954) [2], Giuseppe Realini and the famous Leonardo Bistolfi (1859-1933).