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PROLOGUE

Real women who lived boldly.

The Revolutionists

April 28 - May 22 at Atlas Theatre

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**EDMONIA
LEWIS**

ART SCAVENGER HUNT



1

At the time, some criticized the *Death of Cleopatra* for its disturbing image of the moment when Cleopatra killed herself. Its vivid realism is uncharacteristic of the late 19th century. (3rd Floor) **The sculpture has a ring on which hand?**

Reflection Question: Lewis tended to blur facial features of her sculptures, keeping black, white, and Indian figures indistinguishable. Why might this be?



2

Contrast how Cleopatra is depicted in the *Death of Cleopatra* sculpture with the painting of her in the *Head of the Queen of Egypt* painting. (3rd Floor/Mezz: 8A) **What's the name of the artist who did the painting?**

Reflection Question: In what ways can gender bias affect your understanding of women's history and stories?



3

Lewis developed her skills in Rome by copying classical sculptures. To a black female sculptor, the figure of Moses (original by Michelangelo) may also have been an inspiration. By rescuing the Israelites from Egypt, Moses exemplified the desire for freedom felt by many blacks during the nineteenth century. (3rd Floor/Mezz: 19B) **What does Moses appear to have on his head?**

Reflection Question: Does knowing an artist's background impact how you view their work?



4

Lewis sometimes carved sculptures of mythical scenes, which were very popular with American tourists visiting Rome. Sculptures like *Poor Cupid*, or *Love Ensnared*, appealed to the Victorian sentimentality of affluent Americans traveling around Europe. (3rd Floor/Mezz: 20A) **What is Cupid reaching down to pick up?**

Reflection Question: Think about what you know about Lewis and other famous women in history. Does WHO is telling their story make a difference in how it is told?



5

Lewis spent most of her career in Italy. She first arrived in Florence in 1865 and met an established artist, known for creating a sculpture of a scandalous *Greek Slave*, who gave her space to work in his studio. (3rd Floor/Mezz: 17B - 18B) **What is the name of this artist?**

Reflection Question: What are some of the factors that can impact how women's history is told?



6

The title of this sculpture by Albert Laessle is a word that can definitely be used in connection to Edmonia Lewis. (3rd Floor) **What is this piece called?**

Reflection Question: Lewis was known to tailor stories of her life to win over the audience she was addressing. Scholars have noted that she used both fact and fiction to "embroider" her life story, particularly after she became internationally known. Why do you think she did this?