# The Portrait Monument to Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton: A Symbol of Women's Suffrage and Female Empowerment

Standing prominently in the National Statuary Hall Collection on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., the Portrait Monument to Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton is a powerful tribute to the tireless efforts of two pioneering women who dedicated their lives to the advancement of women's rights and suffrage. Created by renowned sculptor Adelaide Johnson, this bronze and granite monument serves as a testament to the remarkable contributions these women made to American history and a symbol of the ongoing struggle for gender equality.



The Woman Suffrage Statue: A History of Adelaide
Johnson's Portrait Monument to Lucretia Mott,
Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony at the
United States Capitol by Sandra Weber

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#### Adelaide Johnson: The Sculptor and Her Vision

Born in 1859 in Norway, Adelaide Johnson immigrated to the United States with her family at the age of 14. She pursued her passion for art at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Académie Julian in Paris, becoming one of the first American women to study sculpture abroad. Johnson's work was characterized by its realism and attention to detail, often depicting strong and independent women.

In 1921, the National Woman's Party (NWP) commissioned Johnson to create a monument honoring Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, two of the most prominent figures in the women's suffrage movement. Johnson wholeheartedly embraced this opportunity, recognizing the importance of creating a lasting tribute to these women and their unwavering commitment to gender equality.

## **Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton: Pioneers of Women's Suffrage**

Lucretia Mott (1793-1880) was a Quaker minister, abolitionist, and women's rights activist. She was a leading voice at the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848, which is widely considered the birthplace of the women's suffrage movement in the United States. Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815-1902) was a feminist, abolitionist, and social reformer. Together with Mott, she cofounded the National Woman Suffrage Association in 1869 and dedicated much of her life to advocating for women's rights, including the right to vote.

#### The Portrait Monument: A Work of Art and Symbol of Empowerment

Johnson's Portrait Monument to Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton is a bronze relief sculpture mounted on a granite pedestal. The monument

depicts the two women seated side by side, their poses conveying a sense of strength, determination, and camaraderie. Mott holds a book in her lap, symbolizing her role as an advocate and educator, while Stanton raises her hand in a gesture of eloquence and persuasion.

The attention to detail in the monument is remarkable, from the intricate folds of the women's clothing to the expressive features on their faces.

Johnson's skill as a sculptor is evident in her ability to capture the essence of these two women, their personalities, and their unwavering commitment to their cause.

#### **Installation in the National Statuary Hall Collection**

In 1925, the Portrait Monument to Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton was unveiled in the National Statuary Hall Collection, where it stands today. This prestigious location further solidifies the importance of the monument and the legacy of these two women. Each state is allowed to contribute two statues to the collection, and Adelaide Johnson's monument is one of only a handful that honor women.

#### **Legacy and Impact**

The Portrait Monument to Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton has become an iconic symbol of the women's suffrage movement and the ongoing fight for gender equality. It serves as a reminder of the courage, perseverance, and dedication of the women who paved the way for future generations. The monument has inspired countless people, including activists, politicians, and everyday citizens, to continue advocating for women's rights and social justice.

Adelaide Johnson's Portrait Monument to Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton is a masterpiece of sculpture that transcends its artistic merit and holds significant historical importance. It is a testament to the power of art in honoring and preserving the legacy of those who have fought for equality and justice. The monument continues to inspire and empower people today, serving as a reminder that the pursuit of a more just and equitable society is an ongoing journey.





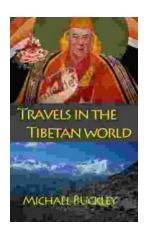
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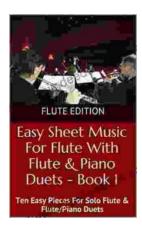
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