



DESPAIR

Ca. 1935
Poplar
13 3/4" H

Inscriptions:
front "Despair"
back "L. G. Bolling"

Lent by Harriette D. Davidson

EXHIBITIONS

1935 "The Wood Sculptures of
Leslie Bolling" (Richmond)

When she viewed the one-man exhibition in 1935, Julia Sully, the art critic for the *Richmond News Leader*, considered *Despair* the "better of the two" small nude figures displayed. Sully noted that all the lines swept down, as if to emphasize the sadness of the figure. Like his *Salome III*, executed about the same time, the knife marks are visible on *Despair*, giving the figure an unfinished quality. Her proportions are realistic, but she is unusual with long hair that flows down her back and over her proper right shoulder. Her proper left hand is held slightly away from her body, and her proper right hand barely touches her hip. Like most of Bolling's nudes, she wears high heels.¹

1. The other small nude sculpture was *Curves*, as yet unlocated. Julia Sully Papers, Acc. 26567, Box 1, folder 2, Library of Virginia.