

Betty Branch (American, born 1934)

Dancer, 1989

Rosa Portuguese marble

Purchased with funds provided by the Collectors Circle, 2008.104

Dedicated to museum executive director (2003-2008)

Georganne Bingham

Based in Roanoke, Virginia, Betty Branch earned both her BA and MA in Studio Art from Hollins University. Her work has been the focus of numerous solo and international exhibitions. Over a thirty-year period, Branch has focused on the female form and has defined female rites of passage in both traditional and unorthodox media including bronze, stone, fiber, ceramic, terra cotta, earthenware, and straw. She looks to impressive Cycladic Greek fertility goddesses and other sources of feminine genesis to form complex and substantial sculptural works that exude power and energy. Branch's female forms vacillate between the lush and the lissome.

In *Dancer*, Branch captures the fluid cyclical motion of a woman's body captured in mid-dance, to the point of abstraction.

