



M. Edmonia Lewis

(1844–1907)

Edmonia was born in Rensselaer, NY and was of African, Haitian, and Ojibwe descent. She was known as ‘Wildfire’ by her mother’s Ojibwe family. Edmonia experienced racism in Oberlin, OH where she studied art at Oberlin College. Accused of poisoning two classmates, she was badly beaten, then arrested. A jury acquitted her of all charges, but the racism continued. She was accused of stealing and not permitted to register for her final semester. Eventually, Edmonia made her way to Italy to continue her sculpting career, the highlight being her sculpture “The Death of Cleopatra” showing at the 1876 Centennial Exposition. She was active in women’s and civil rights throughout her life.

Equili-tea:
Suffragist Tea Cozies in Redwork
a Suffrage Centennial exhibition by Tisha Dolton

October 2020 — March 2021 extended thru September 3, 2021
Folklife Gallery @ Crandall Public Library
& online at <https://www.crandalllibrary.org/folklife-center/folklife-gallery/>



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