Edmonia held the first solo exhibition of her work in 1864, showing her sculptures of abolitionists (people who campaigned against slavery) and civil war heroes. She made enough money from selling her work to move to Rome, Italy, where she worked for most of her career.

In Rome, she began creating more sculptures in the neoclassical style, for example, showing people dressed in Roman robes, rather than contemporary clothing. Many of her sculptures also had African American and Native American themes and figures, such as her sculpture *The Arrow Maker*, which shows a Native American man teaching his daughter how to make an arrow.

Unlike other marble sculptors, Edmonia did the carving and chiselling of her pieces herself. Other artists would often create wax or clay models, then pay tradespeople to produce the finished marble piece, but Edmonia preferred to do all the work herself to ensure accuracy and originality.