

TECHNICAL EXAMINATION REPORT: MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY BRONZES*

Title/Object:

Accession Number:

Artist/Maker:

Foundry:

Date of Model/Casting:

Materials:

Base or Mount/Hardware:

Overall Dimensions (H x W x D):

Inscriptions, Marks, Labels:

Examining Conservators:

Curator:

Date of Report:

INTRODUCTION

A summary of the content in this report, may include:

- Brief statement about the artist, the foundry and the object
- Why and where the examination was undertaken

THE ARTIST

May include:

- Brief pertinent biographical information/how the artist fits in a larger art historical context
- How the piece at hand fits into the rest of the artist's work
- Evolution of working methods
- Documented casting techniques for this bronze, this artist or this particular foundry
- Discuss fabricators/assistants/foundries if used

THE OBJECT

Description

What it is - one sentence. A single figure? Part of an assembly? Relief or free-standing?

Measurements

May include:

- Measurements important for comparison of replicas (internal measurements, etc.)
- Metal wall thickness
- Weight

Inscriptions or Foundry marks

List and describe how they were made: stamped or engraved in the wax/after casting? Carved into the mold?

** This report form is based on a form developed by Francesca Bewer at the J. Paul Getty Museum in the 1990's and adapted over the years for Modern and Contemporary bronzes by graduate interns and staff.*

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DECORATIVE ARTS AND SCULPTURE CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

[Accession Number]
Technical Examination

[Title]
[Date]

Provenance

From curatorial records

Related Editions

From curatorial records, archival research, how does it fit within the artist's oeuvre

OBSERVATIONS *This is not the Condition Report, nor recording of assumptions based on archival research

External Evidence

METAL SURFACE

Sculpture

Visual evidence of how the artist's original model was sculpted (working in plaster, wax, clay).
Where applicable, visual evidence of working of the wax casting model (tool or finger marks).
Visual evidence of casting process (cut-off sprues, surface texture)
State all as hypotheses, even if obvious or superficial – show thought process of observation

Base

PATINA & COATINGS

Sculpture

Visual or written evidence of original patina
Discussion of current appearance of patina, wax and/or other coatings
Current appearance after maintenance coatings have been removed
Past history of descriptions, "right now it looks like"
Any known areas of repatination?
Any known acceptance of change in patina by the artist?

Base

Internal Evidence

METAL SURFACE

Sculpture

As-cast metal surface (generally smooth or rough), flashes, evidence of working the wax inter-model, evidence of sprues, conformity of inner and outer surfaces, evidence of cutting back the core, etc.

Base

CORE MATERIAL

Sculpture

Color, texture, visual variations from one area to another

Base

ARMATURE AND INTERNAL CORE SUPPORTS

Sculpture

Evidence of how the core was strengthened as it was being constructed or during the casting process
How the core was held/suspended in place during casting (core pins/ chaplets/ mold extensions)

Base

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OTHER FEATURES

Sculpture

Base

Method of Assembly & Joining

Sculpture

Wax to wax joins: list separately formed wax pieces and illustrate
Metal to metal joins: list separately cast pieces and illustrate
Describe type of metal to metal assembly features

Base

Foundry design for mounting figures to the base and base to a pedestal

Casting Flaws

Sculpture

Porosity, flashing, lack of flow into mold in areas, undesirable surface texture, etc.

Base

Foundry Repairs and Chasing

Sculpture

Mechanical repairs (plugs, patches): note if patterns are present suggesting core pin repairs
Metallurgical repairs (cast-on repairs or soldering/brazing/welding)
Evidence of cold work (planishing, burnishing, polishing, chiseling, application of texture, etc.)

Base

MOUNTING METHOD

Current method for mounting base to pedestal

CONDITION

Previous Treatments

Summarize – reference reports

Present Condition

Summarize – reference report

ANALYTICAL WORK

Past Analysis

Summarize – reference reports

Analysis undertaken as part of this examination

Summary of analytical program: what was done, goals, justification for sampling and results.

X-Radiography
X-Ray Fluorescence Spectroscopy
Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry
Endoscopy
Patina analysis
Core analysis
TL/OSL
3D scanning

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DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

Summary of artist's materials and technique: fabrication techniques, metal alloy, and patina

Outstanding questions/issues, future research

Conservators: _____ Date: _____

BIBLIOGRAPHY/REFERENCES

LIST OF FIGURES/PHOTO CREDITS

APPENDICES

Archival documents relevant to this study

Spectra/Reports – for each analytical technique