

### Further Reading

Bautista Julis, ed. *The Spirit of Things: Materiality and Religious Diversity in Southeast Asia*. New York: Cornell University, 2012.

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Craddock, P.T. and J. Picton: ‘Medieval Copper Alloy Production and West African Bronze Analyses, II’, *Archaeometry*, 28, 1986.

Elsen, A. and A. Alhadeff, eds. *Rodin Rediscovered*. Washington, D.C.: National Gallery of Art, 1981.

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Vogt, C. “Un Artiste oublié: Antonin Mercié.” *La Sculpture du XIXe siècle: Une Mémoire retrouvée*. Paris: Les Fonds de sculpture, 1986.

### Acknowledgements

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Head of a Buddhist Divinity, n.d.

Cover Images, from top to bottom:  
Eleanor Sawyer, *Two Embracing Nudes*, 1931  
Joseph Evan Brown, *Head of a Clown Praying*, 1950  
Artist Unknown, *Ogboni Society Male and Female Figure*, n.d.

THE TROUT GALLERY  
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# Bronze

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Bronze

Favored for its durability and distinctive appearance, metalworkers have used bronze as early as the second millennium B.C.E. for functional and decorative objects. Bronze is an alloy of copper and tin with two distinct material properties: it is strong, and it can endure stretching while retaining this strength. These properties make bronze an ideal metal for sculptural forms, particularly figures in attenuated action poses.

Bronze casting techniques advanced around the 4th millennium B.C.E. as new technologies in metallurgy occurred in Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. When casting bronze, sculptors create molds that allow them to develop ideas by using pliable materials that are often less costly. Molds frequently consist of the shape surrounding the sculpture—in other words, its negative space. Molten bronze can be poured into molds as part of the casting process. When cooling bronze first expands to fill in detail areas of the mold, then cools and retracts, allowing intricate detail to be rendered with refinement (Figure 1). A sculpture’s final appearance can be further articulated through a process of oxidation (such as the application of corrosive substances) which creates a distinctive patina that gives an object its final color and surface texture (Figure 2). More ornate sculptures may also feature gilding, a coating of gold, applied in specific areas of a sculpture or all over the object (Figure 3).

This exhibition highlights examples of figural bronze sculpture from The Trout Gallery permanent collection, including some works on display for the first time. It bears witness to the central position the metal holds in visual cultures that span the globe; on view are objects from four continents and eleven centuries. The variety of these works allows for cross-cultural exploration and interdisciplinary approaches to the medium.

Frances Taylor ’22



Fig. 1 Auguste Rodin, *Saint John the Baptist Preaching*, 1878-1880



Fig. 3 Jean Antonin Mercié Marius, *Gloria Victus*, c. 1873



Fig. 2 Henry Moore, *Reclining Nude*, 1950

Exhibition Checklist

Artist Unknown <i>Dancing Male Nude Molded to Bronze Base</i> n.d. Bronze Gift of Sarah L. Rowe, Class of 1934 1985.4.3	Joseph Evan Brown (American, 1909-1985) <i>Head of a Clown Praying</i> 1950 Bronze on wood Gift of Drs. Meyer P. and Vivian O. Potamkin 1989.1.2
Artist Unknown <i>Pan</i> n.d. Bronze Gift of Sarah L. Rowe, Class of 1934 1985.4.4	Jean Antonin Mercié Marius (French, 1845-1916) <i>Gloria Victus</i> c. 1873 Bronze with selective gilding Gift of Harry F. Booth, Professor Emeritus, in memory of Sgt. Edwin Bray Booth (1925–1945), 513th PIR, killed in action in Operation Varsity 2013.7
Artist Unknown (Bengali) <i>Venugopala Krishna</i> 18th to 19th c. Bronze Gift from the Estate of Milton E. Flower 1996.4.5	Masatune (Japanese, active 19th to early 20th c.) <i>Seated Man with Pipe</i> Bronze on wooden support Late 19th c. Gift of Karen Kevit, Ph.D. 2022.14.a,b,c
Artist Unknown (Burmese) <i>Head of a Buddhist Divinity</i> n.d. Bronze Gift from the Estate of Milton E. Flower 1996.4.14	Attributed to Marshall Mitchell (American, 1917-2001) <i>Roping Steer</i> n.d. Bronze on a marble base Gift of the Bex Collection 1998.13.1
Artist Unknown (Italian) <i>Narcissos Dionysos</i> n.d. Bronze 1957.6.1	Henry Moore (British, 1898-1986) <i>Reclining Nude</i> 1950 Bronze Gift of the Drs. Meyer P. and Vivian O. Potamkin 2003.1
Artist Unknown (Korean) <i>Seated Buddha (Bhaisajyaguru)</i> n.d. Bronze and iron Gift of Miss Mildred Sawyer 1958.27.2	Auguste Rodin (French, 1840-1917) <i>Saint John the Baptist Preaching</i> 1878-1880 Bronze Gift of the Drs. Meyer P. and Vivian O. Potamkin 1993.4
Artist Unknown (Yoruba, Nigeria) <i>Ogboni Society Male and Female Figure</i> n.d. Bronze Gift of Joseph and Doris Gerofsky 1996.9.23	Eleanor Conway Sawyer <i>Two Embracing Nudes</i> 1931 Bronze Gift of Miss Mildred Sawyer 1984.2.4
Joseph Evan Brown (American, 1909-1985) <i>Football Player</i> n.d. Bronze on a marble base Gift of Drs. Meyer P. and Vivian O. Potamkin 1969.1.6	