

Case 2

Attributed to **Giovanni Francesco Susini**
Italian (Florence), 1585–1653, after **Giambologna**
(Flemish, active Italy, 1529–1608)

Abduction of a Sabine Woman, early 17th century
Bronze, lost wax cast

This Italian bronze from the early 17th century was modeled after the famous 1582 marble sculpture by Giambologna. In both the original composition and the bronze modeled after it, an episode from ancient Roman history provides the opportunities for exploring the spatial interaction of figures in dramatic and unconventional poses. Small-scale bronzes of this variety were eagerly sought by leading collectors throughout Europe well into the 19th century.

Barye modeled many of his animals on the turbulent interactions of the figures portrayed in 16th-century compositions like this one. A comparison of *Horse Surprised by a Lion* with this scene of Sabine women being abducted illuminates Barye's adaptation of compositional conventions from the Mannerist period to dramatic animal scenes of his unique and innovative Romantic style.

Copper: 88.8%, Tin: 6.4%, Lead: 1.7%, Antimony: 1.4%, Zinc: 0.2%, additional trace elements

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