

Case 1

Antoine-Louis Barye

French, 1796–1875

Arab Riding a Dromedary, modeled ca. 1874

Bronze, presumed sand cast

This small figure attests to the “orientalist” themes that emerged in Barye’s work as early as the 1830s. Costumes and figures from Arab societies inspired a few of Barye’s works, but *Arab Riding a Dromedary* is the most famous of these. Similar motifs were popular throughout the periods of the July Monarchy and the Second Empire, coming into vogue following the colonial conquest of Algeria and Morocco by the French armies. This composition is one of the sculptor’s final works. Although only a few copies were made during Barye’s lifetime, the founder Delafontaine acquired the model shortly after the artist’s death and produced a number of casts of it during the 1880s.

Copper: 86.7%, Tin: 6.2%, Zinc: 3.9%, Lead: 0.1%, additional trace elements

Gift of Mrs. Nelson L. St. Clair Jr., 2013.309

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