

Case 10

Antoine-Louis Barye

French, 1796–1875

Model for **Pheasant**, ca. 1845

Plaster, iron

These four charming pheasant figures document the necessary steps for producing the small-format bronzes that Barye often used for his animal subjects. He called works in this format *première série* (first series), while bronzes of medium and larger formats were respectively referred to as *deuxième série* and *troisième série* (second series and third series). The plaster model was probably molded from a wax figure that would have been destroyed in the casting process. A first copy in bronze, known as the *chef modèle* (master model) was later cast from the plaster model. To facilitate setting the mold, the surface of the plaster was covered with a greasy shellac that would allow it to be easily separated from the bronze model without damaging it.

Gift of Mrs. Nelson L. St. Clair Jr., 2009.330

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