

Eugène Delacroix

French, 1798–1863

Study of a Brown-Black Horse Tethered to a Wall,

ca. 1823

Oil on canvas

Barye had a complex relationship with Eugène Delacroix, the leading figure of French Romanticism in painting. Over the course of their respective careers, the two men maintained a frustrated friendship marked by professional rivalry as they frequented the same circles of artists and collectors who often compared their efforts and successes.

Delacroix painted many animal scenes, which proved to be as popular as Barye's bronze animal figures. *Study of a Brown-Black Horse Tethered to a Wall* is a fine example of a portrait of a horse from the early period of Delacroix's career. The painter showed a concern for naturalistic realism equal to that evidenced in Barye's representations of equines. The richness of the colors used to capture the animal's radiant coat in the painting echoed the highly developed sense of chromaticism that the shiny patinas Barye favored for his bronzes also demonstrated. In both painting and sculpture, the Romantic school had sought to render the dignity of animal nature in all its strength and splendor.

Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon, 83.18

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