

Case 10

Antoine-Louis Barye

French, 1796–1875

Study of a Horse for the Péreire Mantel Clock

(“Cheval Péreire” no. 3), ca. 1858

Wax, metal

This small model is an example of an initial study for one of Barye’s works made in wax. Because wax remains malleable, the sculptor could experiment with the shapes and postures of his figures. Its glossy surface also allowed Barye to foresee the visual effects of the patinas that would eventually coat his final bronzes.

This piece—a “sketch” for part of a large clock representing Apollo in his chariot of the sun—was modeled around a supporting pillar attached to the base to stabilize the prancing horse figure. Barye used screws and nails to compose the internal framework. The clock was made for the financier Isaac Péreire’s country castle in 1858 and is now conserved at the Orsay Museum in Paris.

Arthur and Margaret Glasgow Fund, 2003.7

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