BARYE, Antoine-Louis

Paris 1795 - Paris 1875

Maker: Paillard, Victor

Tigre dévorant un gavial
Tiger Devouring a Gavial
1831, cast c. 1840
bronze

group
8 $^1?_4$ x 5 $^1?_4$ x 19 in.
signed before casting: BARYE
foundry mark: FP

Acc. No.: 1992.314
Credit Line: Gift of John Howard

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Boston, Massachusetts, Museum of Fine Arts

www.mfa.org

Provenance

- By 1963, John K. Howard
- 1970, by inheritance to his son John E. Howard, Maine
- 1992, June 24, gift of John Howard to the MFA

Bibliography

- Museum's website, 22 February 2012 and 20 March 2012

  1981 Pivar
  Stuart Pivar, The Barye Bronzes, Woodbridge, Antique Collectors' Club, 1981, p. 142, repr.

  1984 Benge
  Glenn F. Benge, Antoine-Louis Barye - Sculptor of Romantic Realism, University Park and London, The Pennsylvania State University Press, 1984, p. 29-34, 77 (fig 21, 22, 54)

Exhibitions

- 1981 Boston
  Corot to Braque, Boston, Faneuil Hall Market, February 10-July 10, 1981

Related works

- Bronze, Baltimore, Walters Art Museum.
  Paris, the Louvre.

Comment

Museum's file, Department Art of Europe, 1992:
Barye, who was one of the most important French sculptors of the nineteenth century, made a specialty of bronze animal groups. Son of a goldsmith, Barye first studied with Biennais and subsequently with the sculptor Bosio. In 1831 he exhibited Tiger Devouring a Gavial (now in the Louvre) which won him a medal and the attention of the public. [...] It is typical of Barye's compositions in that he depicts the animals locked in combat with one clearly triumphing over the other. These sculptures recall the tumultuous hunting scenes painted by French Romantic artists such as Delacroix and reflect contemporary fascination with Darwin's revolutionary theory of the survival of the fittest. The sculptures also held great appeal for the Duc d'Orléans and members of the royal family as well as the French aristocracy for whom hunting was a regular part of life.