

BEAUTY & POWER



Renaissance and Baroque Bronzes
from the Peter Marino Collection

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BRONZE CASTING PROCESS BASICS

Creating a bronze sculpture is a complex process that can be achieved by a number of different methods. The “lost wax” method is most popular, and many of the sculptures in the Peter Marino Collection have been created in this way. A simplified step-by-step process is outlined below.



1. ARTWORK
The artist begins with a full-size model of the sculpture in clay, wax, or another material.

2. MOLD
From this sculpture, the artist makes a plaster mold.

3. WAX CASTING
A wax sculpture is then cast from the plaster mold.

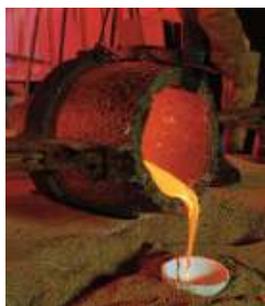


4. WAX CHASING
The artist cleans and finishes the wax sculpture.



5. WAX SPRUING AND GATING
Wax channels (sprues) are added. These thin cylinders eventually form the channels that conduct the molten metal into the wax sculpture.

6. SECONDARY MOLD
A second plaster mold is made from the wax sculpture (including the sprues), and the remaining wax is melted away.



7. METAL CASTING
The artist then fills the second mold with molten bronze and allows it to cool.

8. DEVESTING
Once cooled, the artist hammers away the inner and outer plaster to release the bronze.

9. WELDING
If the piece has been cast in multiple parts, the parts are then welded together.



10. CHASING AND FINISHING
The sprues are cut away, and the rough sculpture is filed down and polished.

11. PATINATION
A variety of different chemicals are used to color the sculpture in hues of brown, green, or gold, to name a few.

A portion of The Huntington's presentation of "Beauty and Power: Renaissance and Baroque Bronzes from the Peter Marino Collection" is devoted to explaining the bronze casting and finishing processes with real bronze sculptures that visitors can handle. Photos courtesy of the J. Paul Getty Museum.

Apollo and Marsyas (detail), Giovanni Battista Foggini (1652-1725), Italy (Florence), about 1710-20. Peter Marino Collection.