



LYME ACADEMY

O F F I N E A R T S

PRESS RELEASE
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Exhibition of Early Modern French Bronze Sculptures at Lyme Academy **Updated with new exhibition opening date**

Old Lyme, CT – February 27, 2026 – The Lyme Academy of Fine Arts is pleased to present its 2026 spring exhibition, *The New Bronze Age: Masterpieces of 19th- and Early 20th-Century Sculpture from the Karlheinz Kronberger Collection*.

In 2022, the Lyme Academy of Fine Arts received a gift of over 230 nineteenth- and early twentieth-century small French sculptures from the late collector, chemist, and philanthropist Karlheinz Kronberger. Many of these objects were cast bronzes, made by pouring molten bronze – an alloy of copper, sometimes zinc, and tin - into a mold or several molds until they solidified. Due to the caliber of the artists and bronze foundries that collaborated in this complex process, the Kronberger bronzes are among the finest examples of this art form. Rosa Bonheur, Jean-Baptiste Carpeaux, Aime-Jules Dalou, Paul DuBois, Jean Alexandre Joseph Falguière, Emmanuel Frémiet, Antonin Mercié, and Emmanuel Villanis are just a few of the renowned artists represented, along with the famed French bronze foundries Siot-Decauville and Barbedienne. Numerous examples of bronze sculptures by the nineteenth century's most successful and influential French artist, Jean-Léon Gérôme, are also featured in the Kronberger Collection.

As Lyme Academy celebrates 50 years since its founding by the sculptor Elisabeth Gordon Chandler (1913-2006), it is particularly fitting to present 50 highlights from the Kronberger Collection in this exhibition. Chandler's belief in the importance of art made in the Renaissance tradition was shared by each of the represented artists, and by the students who train at Lyme Academy today. The historical artworks presented here therefore offer both a glimpse into the past and inspiration for a future generation of artists who choose to demonstrate their technical skill and creativity in three-dimensional form.

Exhibition Curator Dr. Emily Weeks, also the Principal Art Historian at Lyme Academy, notes that, "The Kronberger sculptures are the product of both artistic excellence and innovations in art-making at the end of the nineteenth century. Produced in a range of sizes and finishes, these works allowed a new class of collectors - the middle class - to introduce luxury and culture into their homes. Appreciating their significance - virtually no art form was more popular during this period - allows us to better understand the early modern French art world."

The New Bronze Age: Masterpieces of 19th- and Early 20th-Century Sculpture from the Karlheinz Kronberger Collection opens to the public on Friday, March 20, and will be on view in the Chauncey Stillman Gallery at the Lyme Academy of Fine Arts through May 17, 2026. The Gallery is open Wednesday–Sunday, 12–4 pm. (Please note: The Gallery will be closed on Sunday, April 5, 2026 for the Easter holiday.)

Gallery entrance and parking is available at the South Entrance at 84 Lyme Street, South Entrance, Old Lyme,

CT.

More information about the exhibition is available at www.lymeacademy.edu.

About Lyme Academy

The mission of the Lyme Academy of Fine Arts is to teach the foundational skills of drawing, painting, and sculpture in the figurative tradition. By its commitment to training students in these skills and an engagement with contemporary discourse, the Academy will empower a new generation of artists. Through its programs, the Academy is committed to enriching the cultural life of the community.