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A Laocoön by Filippo Della Valle

Dimitrios Zikos

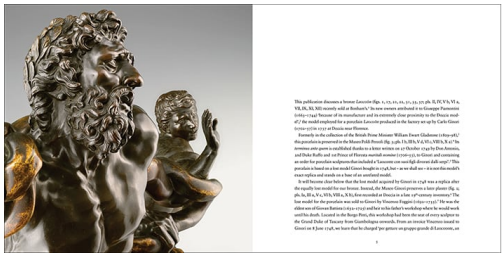
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- Review of a bronze Laocoön attributed to Italian Sculptor Giuseppe Piamontini (1663–1744)
- A point of reference for Florentine Late Baroque sculpture and of Della Valle's art

This publication discusses a bronze Laocoön recently sold at Bonham's. Its new owners attributed it to Giuseppe Piamontini (1663–1744) 'because of its manufacture and its extremely close proximity to the Doccia model', the model employed for a porcelain Laocoön produced in the factory set up by Carlo Ginori (1702–57) in 1737 at Doccia near Florence.

Labelled as French and belatedly returned to Late Baroque Florence (but to the wrong artist), this magnificent group has finally revealed its identity. It is one of the incunabula of an ambitious young sculptor measuring himself with the sculptors of Ancient Greece and their great Renaissance followers of his native Florence. During the day he copied them in the Galleria degli Uffizi and in the streets of the city. At night he gathered together with other pupils of Foggini in the Borgo Pinti studio to study together. The prominent career to which Della Valle obviously aspired prompted his move to Rome. Della Valle helped us interpret the bronze correctly, interpret correctly its attribution in the Doccia models' inventory and by extension understand better that document itself. But most important, our understanding of Florentine Late Baroque sculpture and of Della Valle's art has acquired another firm point of reference.

Dimitrios Zikos is an independent art historian specialised in Florentine bronze sculpture of the Renaissance and the Baroque. He studied Art History and Archaeology in the Universities of Munich and Freiburg i. Br. from where he obtained his PhD. He was a Henkell Fellow at the Kunsthistorisches Institut, Florence, and has co-curated exhibitions at the Gardner (2003), the Bargello (2003-2014), the Liechtenstein Princely Collections (2005), the Bayerisches Nationalmuseum (2015), and the Galleria dell'Accademia di Firenze (2023). He has published widely on Italian Sculpture and taught at the University of Innsbruck (2012-2013). He is an Honorary Member of the Amici di Doccia and the President of the not-for-profit Friends of the Bargello.





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