

H E N R Y M O R R I S O N

FLAGLER MUSEUM

PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

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Contact: David Carson, Public Affairs Director
(561) 655-2833 ext. 13 / publicaffairsdirector@flaglERMuseum.us

BEGINNING JANUARY 15, THE FLAGLER MUSEUM PRESENTS—*UNTAMED: THE ART OF ANTOINE-LOUIS BARYE*—SELECTIONS FROM ONE OF THE RICHEST COLLECTIONS OF BARYE’S WORKS WORLDWIDE

(PALM BEACH, FL) —The Flagler Museum will exhibit *Untamed: The Art of Antoine-Louis Barye* from January 15, 2008 through April 13, 2008. The Winter exhibition features 91 works from the French Romantic artist Antoine-Louis Barye (1796-1875), the foremost animal sculptor, or *animalier*, of the nineteenth century. Sculptures from the Flagler Museum’s collection will also be featured. The exhibition is organized by the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore and sponsored by Northern Trust and *The Palm Beach Post*.

This exhibition will be the first in recent times to emphasize the full range of Barye’s production, including not only his well-known bronze sculptures but also his oil paintings and sketches. These artworks will reveal the breadth of his subjects, from game animals and mythological creatures to animal combat scenes and the human form.

Barye produced some of the most controversial sculptures of his century. Many were based on careful observation of specimens in the *Jardin des Plantes*, the botanical and zoological garden founded in Paris in 1793. He is remembered for monumental works commissioned by the state, as well as for small sculptures intended for interior decoration. Barye was also a pioneer in the production of multiple bronze casts (called “editions”) for the rapidly expanding middle-class market. Barye was also an influential artist. His work was a source of inspiration to artists such as Henri Matisse and Paul Cézanne, and Auguste Rodin was an early pupil.

Acclaimed by the critic Theophile Gautier as “the Michelangelo of the menagerie,” Barye was known principally as an animal sculptor. Less familiar to both his contemporaries and today’s viewers are Barye’s oil paintings and watercolors, and his role as a member of the Barbizon School of artists. This exhibition will give special attention to distinctions between contemporary and posthumous sculptural casts, and Barye will be placed within the context of the controversial critical debates surrounding his work during his formative years of the 1830s and in the Second Empire.

In Barye’s later years, much of his support came from American collectors, and the exhibit will feature works collected by William T. Walters and his son Henry. The collection amassed by these men formed the nucleus of the Walters Art Museum. Henry Walters was a friend and business associate of Henry Flagler. The two men shared similar collecting tastes, and are known to have admired each other’s collections.

In conjunction with the exhibition, the Museum will host a Gallery Talk and Catalogue Signing on February 5, 2008 at 12:15 p.m. with Dr. William R. Johnston, senior curator of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century art at the Walters Art Museum, curator of the exhibit, and coauthor of the exhibition catalog. The Gallery Talk is free with Museum admission. Visitors will tour the exhibit with Dr. Johnston as he discusses Barye’s life, influences, range of works, and enduring legacy. The exhibition catalog, *Untamed: The Art of Antoine-Louis Barye*, will be available for purchase at the Book Signing and at the Flagler Museum Store.

The Museum will also host a Kid’s Sculpture Class on February 9, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Children will take a special guided tour through *Untamed: The Art of Antoine-Louis Barye*, and then learn sculpture techniques during a hands-on class with a local sculptor. The class is suitable from ages 8-14 and is free with Museum admission. Reservations are required.

When it was completed in 1902, Whitehall, Henry Flagler’s Gilded Age estate in Palm Beach, was hailed by the New York Herald as “more wonderful than any palace in Europe, grander and more magnificent than any other private dwelling in the world.” Today, Whitehall is a National Historic Landmark and is open to the public as the Flagler Museum, featuring guided tours, changing exhibits, and special programs. The Museum is located at Cocoanut Row and Whitehall Way, Palm

Beach. The Museum is open from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, and noon until 5:00 p.m., Sunday. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$8 for youth ages 13-18, \$3 for children ages 6-12, and children under six are free.

For more information, please call the Flagler Museum at 561-655-2833 or visit

www.flaglERMuseum.us.

High resolution images are available upon request.

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