

The Bronze Age Revisited

Additions to the Bronze Collection

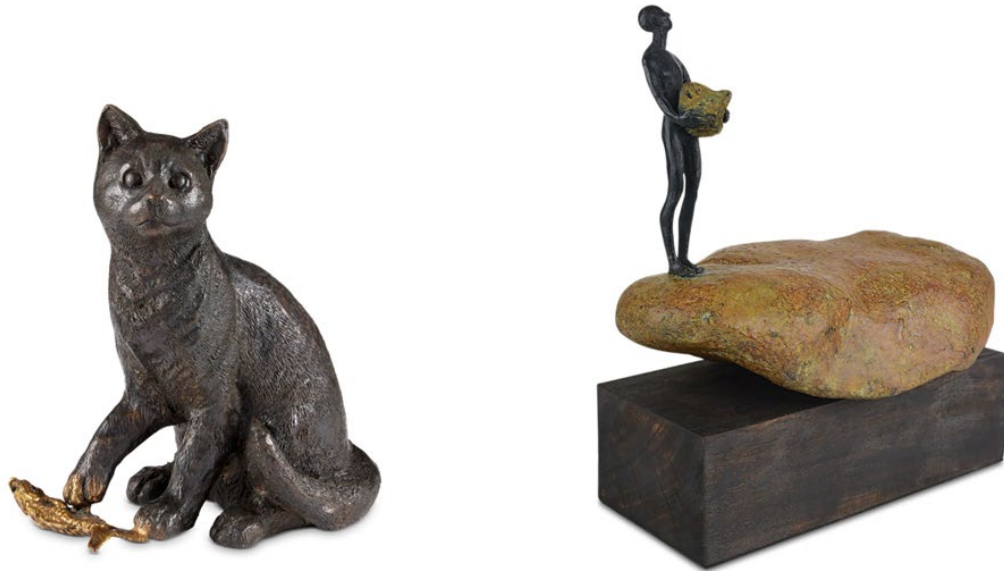
Six thousand years ago is where we begin with the development of bronze in the Indus Valley, which is today's Pakistan and northwest India. Bronze is a mixture of copper and tin in various proportions that is heated and pounded together to form a harder and more durable metal. The metals bond at a molecular level to create an entirely new material. It was first used for agricultural tools, military weapons/armor, and later for coins, cultural artifacts, and art objects. The Bronze Age began and flourished in the eastern Mediterranean before it moved on to present-day Europe. This time period was named after the crafting of bronze.

Drawing inspiration from this ancient metal, Currey & Company is introducing seven bronze objects at the October High Point Market. The new designs are both artful and whimsical – all made with the lost-wax casting method or *cire perdue*, the French term. This process involves a wax model made by an artist, a sand-filled second mold, and very hot molten bronze poured very slowly into the wax mold and then cooled. The lost-wax technique produces only one object or at least a limited number of pieces so each object is unique. The wax used is malleable and gives the craftsman the ability to create intricate details for each design.



Standing Black Panther Bronze and Herons on Branch Bronze

The Standing Black Panther Bronze commands attention in any interior at 36 inches in height. Place it on a pedestal and its countenance will be transformed into a real work of art. The craftsmanship is so detailed that you can see the hairs that make up the animal's coat. Herons on Branch Bronze sculpture stands at more than 5 ½ feet tall and is beautifully life-like mimicking a classic design expressing harmony and quietude that is found in many Japanese gardens.



Gatto Bronze and Man on a Rock Bronze

The Gatto Bronze with its authentic gaze is remarkable given it is made of metal. The bronze piece in a black-bronze finish comes to life when the craftsman adds thoughtful touches like polishing or applying finishes, which is illustrated by the polished goldfish the cat has just caught and holds in its paws adding a touch of playful whimsy. The incredibly artisanal Man on a Rock Small Bronze is a sculpture that celebrates the human psyche, as the artist who created it set out to explore how to represent the feeling of loneliness in a concrete form. The lost-wax process was used to achieve the sculpture, including the pieces of the composition that so convincingly look like stone but are actually bronze.