



DESPIAU, Charles

Mont-de-Marsan, Landes 1874 - Paris 1946

Léda et le cygne

Leda and the Swan

1918

bronze

medal and plaquette

without wooden mount: $6 \frac{1}{2} \times 5 \frac{1}{16}$ with wooden
mount: $9 \frac{1}{2} \times 7 \frac{1}{2}$ in.

signed and dated, incised at lower right: C. Despiau /
1918 [cast with the work]

inscribed, incised at lower left: A M. Birnbaum [added later]

Acc. No.: 66.105.1

Credit Line: Gift of Martin Birnbaum, 1966

Photo credit: www.metmuseum.org, August 9, 2011

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[New York, New York, The Metropolitan Museum of Art](http://www.metmuseum.org)

www.metmuseum.org

Provenance

- 1966, Gift of Martin Birnbaum

Bibliography

- 1922 Roger-Marx
Claude Roger-Marx, Charles Despiau, Paris, 1922, p. 13, 17, 61

1944 Crowninshield

Frank Crowninshield, "Despiau, foremost sculptor of our time", *Vogue*, May 15, 1944, p. 136 ("Despiau makes very few casts of his works, eight as a maximum, and sometimes as few as three. His casts are, for the most part, made by Valsuani, in Paris... and are numbered and signed... Though Despiau's personal preference is for bronze, he occasionally makes casts in pewter.")

1960 Birnbaum

Martin Birnbaum, *The Last Romantic: the story of more than a half-century in the world of art*, New York, 1960, p. 224-225 (states that in 1927 Despiau "was completing a seated figure, calling to mind the *Penseur* de Rodin whom Despiau at one time assisted... I acquired the entire edition of the original version of that figure for American collectors. There were six replicas and as a reward for my interest, the artist gave me a number of drawings, studies for that bronze, and some small bas-reliefs which were dedicated to me.")

Related works

- See another version of the subject, 66.105.2.

Claude Roger-Marx: 8 examples made (this version or another?); the artist often decorated the socles of his busts with small plaquettes or medallions. This version appears in Despiau's bust of the painter Léopold Lévy (1921).

A similar version appears on the back of the base of Despiau's *Madame Othon Friesz* (plaster, 1924, NY, Metropolitan Museum of Art, 55.21.8ab).
