



Artist	Jean Antoine Houdon (*25.3.1741 Versailles, +15.7.1828 Paris)
Title	Voltaire assis
Date	1779
Description	Voltaire (1694-1778) returned from Ferney to Paris in February 1778, where his niece, Mme Denis Duvivier, commissioned Houdon to create a larger-than-life seated statue for the Académie Française (now in the Comédie Française; repeated in the Hermitage in St. Petersburg). At the Salon in 1779, Houdon showed this Voltaire, bareheaded and in a «manteau de chambre», in two small bronzes for Catherine the Great. The present example of the numerous existing reductions is close to the version that reached the Rijksmuseum Amsterdam from St. Petersburg. The previous owners were probably Prince Friedrich Karl August von Waldeck-Pyrmont (r. 1763-1812) and the well-known Zurich man of letters Heinrich (Henri) Meister (1744-1826), who was acquainted with Voltaire and edited the «Correspondance littéraire, philosophique et critique» in Paris from 1773 to 1792.
Also known as	Voltaire sitzend Voltaire Seated
Medium	Bronze
Dimensions	object: 20.5 x 9.7 x 15.1 cm
Inventory number	6
Credit line	Kunsthaus Zürich, Donated by Heinrich Meister, 1830
Signature	-
Inscription	front of pedestal: Donné par Frédéric Prince de Waldeck
Edition / number	-
Edition	-
Accession year	1830
Catalogue raisonné	-

Object type	sculpture
Classification	B 3[1] sculpture 16th to 19th century
Literature (general)	- Kunsthaus Zürich. Gesamtkatalog der Gemälde und Skulpturen, hrsg. von Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft et al., Sammlungskatalog, Ostfildern: Hatje Cantz, 2007, S. 139.
Provenance	The digitisation of the inventory of the Kunsthaus is an ongoing work in progress. Due to the time-consuming nature of comprehensive scientific research on each individual artwork, we have decided to disclose some works also without provenance information to the public. The progression of provenance research will be continuously updated online. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us at provenanceresearch(at)kunsthaus.ch .
Provenance category	not looted art
Provenance category (BAK)	-
About the provenance	(State of research 01.01.2007)
Literature (Provenance)	