



Thank you and congratulations on your purchase of a genuine, heirloom quality *Garden Gallery Bronze Statuary* work of art.

Garden Gallery Bronze Statuary is Design Toscano's exclusive new collection of imported, hand-crafted bronze sculptures, pond statues and home décor accents. We design or hand-select every beautiful item in our line to ensure the finest quality.

Your *Garden Gallery* bronze creation has been cast using the ancient "lost wax" method—an exacting, centuries-old process still employed today because of its ability to render exceptional detail and character. This multi-step, labor-intensive method requires artisans to hand-detail and finish every piece as described in the "Art of Lost Wax Casting" enclosed.

This tradition of bronze casting dates back thousands of years to cultures that valued the strength, beauty and versatility of this metal. Bronze is an alloy of copper, blended with a variety of hardening agents, including zinc, tin, magnesium or silicon. It lasts indefinitely, withstanding virtually all climatic conditions. If left untreated, you're *Garden Gallery* bronze sculpture will weather and oxidize into a classic verdigris patina, which our applied green finishes emulate. If preferred, the original appearance of your piece can be maintained by an occasional waxing to retard its natural oxidation process. Care, cleaning and polishing instructions are included.

At Design Toscano's *Garden Gallery Bronze Statuary* we pride ourselves on the excellence and diversity of our collection—from whimsical children to realistic wildlife, and from classic images to lively spouting pond sculptures. Your investment in a *Garden Gallery* bronze sculpture reflects your understanding of the refined and distinctive impact of bronze as it enhances your home, garden, landscape and lifestyle—for you and your family, for decades to come.



The Art of Lost Wax Casting...

Design Toscano proudly presents premium bronze sculptures, pond statues and home décor accents with the Garden Gallery Bronze Statuary collection. Every piece is hand cast in the ancient “lost wax” method by our artisans. This meticulous process ensures the remarkable detail and heirloom quality of every Garden Gallery Bronze Statuary creation. Character, minor variations in appearance and color, occur naturally due to the individual crafting inherent in the process, making each piece a unique work of art. This artistic and labor-intensive lost wax process creates sculptures of exceptional strength, beauty and detail.

Ten Step Process:

1. Working from classic designs and original Garden Gallery sketches, our artists sculpt the original work in clay and then create a “Mother mold” by layering special latex rubber then an outer fiberglass shell onto the original.



2. Liquid wax is painted on then poured into the rubber mold, coating the mold’s surface.



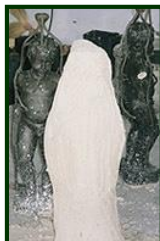
3. After hardening, the hollow wax impression is removed from the mold, and all details in the wax surface are perfected by hand; this makes each piece unique.



4. The finished wax impression is fitted with wax rods, or “sprues.” The sprues allow air to escape during the molten bronze pouring, preventing air bubbles in the finished piece.



5. The wax impression is then encased, layer upon layer, with a special mix of refined plaster and other materials, which hardens into an “investment casting” mold.



6. The plaster mold is fired upside down in a kiln. As a result, the wax melts out of the plaster mold. It becomes, in effect, “lost wax.”

7. The void created by the lost wax in the hot plaster mold is then immediately filled with molten bronze, producing a piece that is identical to the wax impression it replaced.



8. After cooling, the plaster surrounding the poured bronze piece is expertly removed, revealing the raw cast sculpture. Sprues are removed and weld marks are chased and re-detailed.



9. Larger, more complex sculptures often require welding, since they are assembled from smaller cast pieces.



10. All pieces are sanded, smoothed and polished for a seamless look. An oxidizing formula is then applied to achieve a verdigris or golden bronze patina. A final wax coating is applied while the bronze is still warm to protect the surface from oxidation and to give the finished bronze its luster.



Care, Cleaning and Polishing of Bronzes

Caring for a bronze:

Giving a bronze proper care is basically a matter of knowing what not to do. Observing the following seven major “don’ts” can keep you from damaging the patina or finish of valued pieces in your possession.

- Don’t apply anything to the surface of a bronze without first trying it on some obscure spot on the backside or bottom of the piece.
- Don’t place any sharp or pointed object--whether it be glass, wood, or metal—near a bronze. This precaution will avoid any chance of accidentally chipping or scratching the finish.
- Don’t use metal objects or wire brushes and don’t apply abrasives, such as cleaners; these materials will scratch the finish.
- Oftentimes what appears to be dirt actually may be the original finish. Crevices and deep corners, for example, frequently were finished in a darker patina (and should be left as originally applied).
- Also, a bronze may have patches of lighter toned areas, which can lead one to believe an overall cleaning is needed. The figure simply may have had some of its natural oxidation rubbed off in these areas by hand contact during lifting or moving.
- Don’t try to match paint and touch up chipped spots on painted or acid patinas. Although you may succeed in matching color, the luster or gloss may not be the same as that of the original. It is far better to leave the natural imperfections on a finish than risk having the sale ability and value of a figure diminished by retouching.
- Don’t use spray-on materials containing varnish or lacquer to coat the surface of a bronze, as the chemicals or thinning agents could either run or dissolve the finish.

Cleaning a bronze:

Bronzes that are placed indoors require minimal care. Garden Gallery bronze sculptures have been sealed with a coat of wax, producing a glossy finish. A thorough dusting with a clean, dry cotton cloth is the only further care needed.

Outdoor bronzes will require cleaning more often. A good rule of thumb is when water no longer beads on the surface of the bronze, a cleaning is in order. To clean an outdoor bronze, which by nature gets dirtier, use very mild soap such as Ivory, water and a soft cloth. If you have hard water, distilled water may be preferred to prevent spotting. For stubborn dirt, a soft toothbrush can be used (we recommend testing it on a hidden area first to be sure it won’t scratch the finish). Once the sculpture is clean, rinse the cloth and wipe again with clear water to remove soap residue. Allow sculpture to completely dry before proceeding to polishing.

For in-between cleaning and extra protection, Garden Gallery Bronze Statuary uses an extra layer of liquid silicone (brand name Armor All Natural Finish Detailer Protectant) before delivering our sculptures to you. This coating does not disturb the wax finish and leaves a nice natural shine. You too can use this at home. Follow manufacturer’s directions.

Polishing a bronze:

The final step in attaining a bright clean look from a dull lifeless finish is polishing. If your indoor bronze is located in a dry climate, a thin coat of polish as described below, applied every year, or every other year, will add to its lifespan. In more humid climates, one-two polishing a year may be needed. Outdoor bronzes will require polishing after cleaning to restore the wax finish.

It is best to polish your bronze during the warmest hours of the day. The heat of the bronze will allow the wax to penetrate the pores of the sculpture resulting in a longer lasting finish.

The best wax to use is a plain, clear paste wax (not an automotive wax, which will result in a white film and could contain a chemical cleaner which will harm the bronze).

To apply the wax, use a soft cloth and new, unused paintbrush for the crevices (cover metal casing for bristles with masking tape to prevent scratching.) Apply a thin coat, then allow to dry. Then buff the sculpture with a clean cloth. A second coat is recommended for outdoor statues.

If desired, top wax coating with liquid silicone (Armor All) as above.