Relief - Apollo Slaying the Serpent Python

Object: Relief

Place of origin: Austria (made)
Date: 1700-1750 (made)
Artist/Maker: Donner, Georg Raphael, born 1693 - died 1741 (sculptor)
Materials and Techniques: Bronze relief
Credit Line: Given by Dr. W. L. Hildburgh, F. S. A.
Museum number: A.66-1952

Public access description
This bronze relief was made by Georg Raphael Donner in Austria in the first half of the 18th century. It represents the legend of Apollo slaying the serpent Python. Donner (1693-1741) was one of the most prolific Austrian sculptors of the time. He worked in a Baroque style, with Classical elements.

Apollo was one of the twelve gods of Olympus and the embodiment of the classical Greek spirit, representing the rational and the civilised. In Greek mythology he was the son of Zeus and Leto and the twin-brother of Artemis (Diana). In classical sculpture he represents the ideal form of male physical beauty (as Venus does for female) and is portrayed young, beardless, with long hair and rather feminine features. His attributes were varied: bow, arrow, quiver (for his patron of archery), the lyre (patron of poetry and music), a four-horse chariot (for the sun god), a snake (for his victory over Python) and more.

Descriptive line
Relief, bronze, Apollo Slaying the Serpent Python, Georg Raphael Donner, Austrian, first half of 18th century

Dimensions
Width: 50.5 cm, Height: 36 cm, Depth: 1 cm less than

Museum number
A.66-1952

Object history note
Given by Dr. W. L. Hildburgh, F. S. A., 1952.

URL
http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O313307/apollo-slaying-the-serpent-python-relief-donner-georg-raphael/