

## Property History

Founded in 1842 by Daniel Wadsworth, the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art is one of the oldest public art museums in the United States. Construction began in 1842 on the site of the family home of Daniel Wadsworth in downtown Hartford, Connecticut. The museum houses nearly 50,000 works of art from the spanning from around the world from the last 5,000 years.

## Project Description

The project scope required Grand Light use the lost wax casting method to fabricate six bronze replications of a historic E.F Caldwell bronze wall sconce based on a 1910 photograph.

A spiral arm pattern was sculpted in clay while the bobesche and back-plate patterns were carved out of wood. Each pattern then lays in a rigid outer mold while being soaked in a softer inner mold that forms around the pattern. These molds are then encompassed in a layer of wax to create a ceramic shell around the mold.

Once the ceramic shell has been allowed enough time to harden, each shell is heated until the wax mold inside melts and seeps out leaving the ceramic shell hollow. Melted bronze is then poured into each shell to create a casting for each replicated component. The shells are then cooled as the metal phases from liquid to solid before removal. All excess metal parts are removed and any pits or stubs in the metal are meticulously filed down and polished leaving a smooth, consistent surface.

A statuary bronze hot patina finish was applied to all components using a custom recipe developed by Grand Light artisans. Each component was heated while a brush is used to first apply a weaker base coat followed by an application of a stronger base patina. Each component received multiple layers of a museum grade bronze metal wax.

All fixtures were wired with UL listed components and HIPOT tested in accordance with UL standard 1598.

## Client

Wadsworth Antheneum Museum of Art

## Client Project Managers

Cecil Adams, Director of Museum Services, Wadsworth Atheneum  
George Sexton III, I.E.S., I.A.L.D., George Sexton Associates

## Date Awarded

2014

## Completion Date

2015

## Project Webpage

<https://grandlight.com/portfolio/wadsworth-atheneum/>

## Awards

Connecticut Preservation Merit Award 2016  
Hartford Preservation Alliance Preservation Award 2016

