



CHARLES ALLIS  
ART MUSEUM

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

John Sterr, 414/278-8295

[www.charlesallis.org](http://www.charlesallis.org)



***Michelangelo of the Menagerie: Barye Bronzes from the  
Charles Allis Art Collection***

***Opens Wednesday, September 28, 2011***

**Milwaukee, WI** – The Charles Allis Art Museum, 1801 N. Prospect Ave, Milwaukee is pleased to announce the opening of its exhibition: ***Michelangelo of the Menagerie: Barye Bronzes from the Charles Allis Art Collection*** for Wednesday September 28, 2011. Antoine-Louis Barye (1795-1875) was a French sculptor made famous by his bronzes of animals. He was called *The Michelangelo of the Menagerie* by the influential art critic Théophile Gautier. The Allis has a large collection of Barye bronzes that have received little recognition and the exhibition is an opportunity to view the Allis collection in a new context. The exhibition runs through January 15, 2012.

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**Charles Allis Art Museum**

**About the Charles Allis Mansion**

On the National Registry of Historic Places, the lavish 1911 Tudor-style mansion was originally the home of Charles Allis, first president of Allis-Chalmers Corporation and his wife Sarah. The Charles Allis Mansion was designed by prominent Milwaukee architect Alexander Eschweiler. Construction on the home began in 1909 and was completed in 1911. Special attention was paid to the exterior walls which are constructed of thick concrete to keep the Allis' substantial art collection safe from the ever-present threat of fire. It was one of the first private residences in Milwaukee to have electricity. Interior materials included fine Italian marble, used for the hand-carved fireplaces found in almost every room as well as the grand staircase and the Marble Hall, *Lincrusta Walton*, an embossed wallpaper, and Cirassian walnut paneling found in the French Parlor and Library. The Charles Allis Art Museum is a treasure, preserved intact in its original form with some items in the collection being the only known examples of their kind in existence. Changing exhibitions feature local and regional artists, making the museum a vibrant center for Wisconsin arts not to be missed.

**About Charles and Sarah Allis**

Charles Allis and Sarah Ball were married in 1877. They were active in the Milwaukee community throughout their lives, Charles was one of the founding members of the Milwaukee Arts Society, a trustee at the Layton Art Gallery, and served on the boards of many other arts organizations. The couple amassed an extensive art collection including Japanese porcelain, ancient glass, Renaissance bronzes, and 19<sup>th</sup> century French and American paintings. Their intention was to bequeath their mansion, built for the purpose of preserving and showcasing their collection, and art to the public in order to delight, inspire and educate.

**General Information**

Museum Hours: Wednesday - Sunday, 1-5 p.m. General Admission: \$5/adult, \$3/student & senior (62+), Free for museum members, children 12 & under, and active military. Group tours available. More information at (414) 278-8295 or [www.charlesallis.org](http://www.charlesallis.org)

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