

## Conservation Report on "Anne" Sculpture by Artist Leo Mol

**SCULPTURE:** Anne

**ARTIST:** Leo Mol

**LOCATION:** Windsor Sculpture Park. Windsor, ON. Canada

**REPORT WRITER:**

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*Age of Bronze*

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**PROJECT:** Bronze sculpture, "Anne" by Leo Mol – Patina Restoration



### < 1 > DETAILS OF ARTWORK:

- Artist: Leo Mol
- Date of original: 1983
- Edition: AP 1/1
- Casting date: Late 1990s
- Founders: MST Bronze – Etobicoke, Ontario
- Material: Bronze
- Patina: Brown – Potash Sulphurated?
- Weight: 500lbs (approximate)
- Dimensions: Life size
- Location: Windsor Sculpture Park. Windsor, ON. Canada

## < 2 > INTRODUCTION:

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"Anne" was created by the Ukrainian sculptor Leo Mol. She was cast in the late 1990's by MST Bronze Art Foundry in Etobicoke, Ontario, and was commissioned by the Louis Odette Foundation to be part of the Windsor Sculpture Park, located in Windsor, Ontario. The artwork was originally installed on a tall wooden column that was located directly in the Detroit River. Coincidentally, this is a sculpture I worked on while I was employed at the art foundry in the 90's. I believe Anne was patinaed in a translucent brown color, which was standard practice for bronze sculptures being located in an outdoor environment. The patina was sealed with a clear paste wax, either Renaissance or Tre Wax, using the hot wax method. There are no records of the artwork receiving any maintenance after installation in the park, other than recently, the students who worked for the Care and Preservation of artworks at the Windsor Sculpture Park, who basically washed and scrubbed the artwork using tooth brushes and soap and water. Photos of students working on Anne at Windsor Sculpture Park prior to my treatment can be found at the link below:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/90638896%40N04/sets/72157644843896118>

## < 3 > CONDITION:

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The overall condition of the bronze is good. There appears to be no cracks where the welded joints are and no apparent structural issues with the artwork. Any evidence of the original patina cannot be found. Anne may have been sandcast giving the rougher surface texture of the bronze. Overall, the bronze shows typical signs of exposure to an exterior environment that had not been treated for decades. The patina has been replaced with many layers of active corrosion products giving her open exposure to the elements, and location in the river, which may consist of Sulfates, Sulfides and possibly a Cuprite layer beneath, that are typically found on outdoor bronzes in Ontario. For years, the birds have perched on the artwork leaving obvious staining from their droppings, causing a yellowish-green streaking on many areas of the bronze, which has now become an integral element. Despite the dis-figuring corrosion, on "Anne's" surface, she still maintains a wonderful sense of grace and beauty.

## < 4 > TREATMENT PROCEDURE:

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After initial testing, it was found that pressure washing would help to reduce and remove the surface corrosion. The reduction and removal was quite successful, although there were some areas where the corrosion was more intense that was still noticeable after the pressure washing. This procedure revealed a coppery color in many areas that had developed beneath the corrosion.

While pressure washing, the surface was lightly scoured with a medium Teflon pad to help loosen more of the corrosion, which was followed by a washing of Orvus Paste and water, and rinsed with clean water. Patina testing was carried out on the proper left side of the base to determine the correct chemical or combination of chemicals, as well as mixture ratios that would react with the present surface condition. It was also found that by gently heating the bronze, the chemical responded more effectively and produced a better color.

The artwork was patinaed by gently warming the bronze and rubbing the patina into the surface that was allowed to cool down, and then rinsed with clean water to neutralize the patina, and dried. This was followed by a hot waxing using a clear outdoor paste wax (Renaissance Wax). Once cool, the bronze was gently buffed using clean cotton rags. The coppery color that was revealed after pressure washing, helped to create a beautiful rich brown patina.

#### < 5 > REMARKS:

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Giving the original location and the fact that "Anne" was not treated for a long period of time, does create limitations on the treatment process. Once a bronze has been placed in an outdoor environment, the original condition starts to diminish. The layers of corrosion that have built up on the surface have impeded restoring the patina back to its original color and the artwork back to its original state. To do this would require the complete removal of the existing surface to the bare metal, which is too invasive and presents a loss of historical information, originality, and surface alteration. The treatment method, to patina over the stabilized corrosion, helped to restore the overall appearance of the artwork. Anne was restored to a brownish color patina, with slight traces of greenish corrosion still present, making her appear in a more antiquated state. The result was a patina that was close to the original intent of the artist, and a patina that enhances the beauty of the sculpture.

#### < 6 > RECOMMENDATIONS:

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Maintenance is the key to preservation. Once the artwork has been treated, a maintenance program should be implemented with regularly scheduled visits annually or biannually, depending on location and environmental conditions, particularly, artwork that is placed outdoors or near water. Each visit is documented, and any changes to the artwork are noted and then treated to help prevent and reduce surface corrosion and also to deal with any apparent problems that may be detrimental to the future of the artwork.



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## PHOTOS



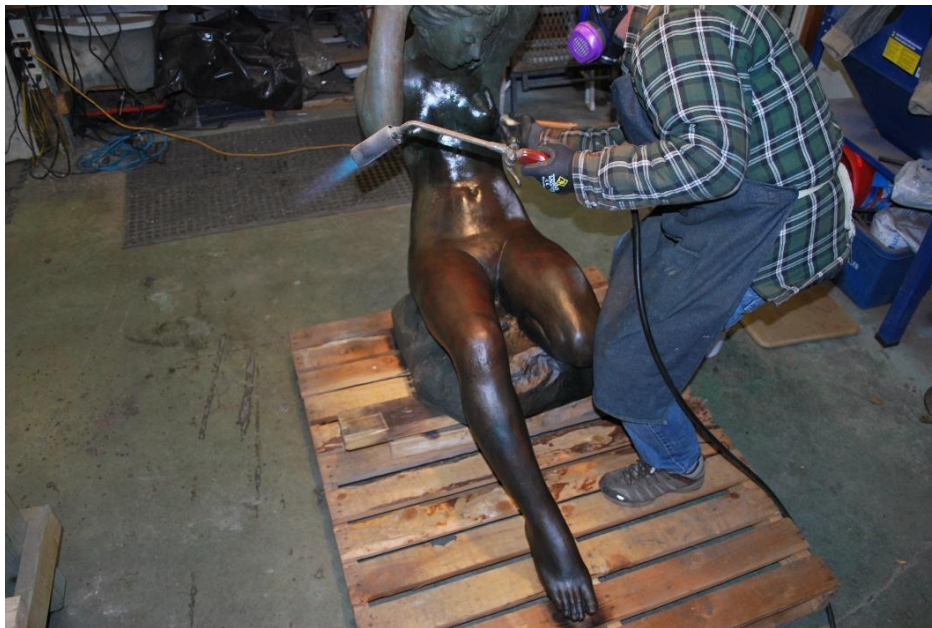
Before treatment - Heavily corroded surface



During Treatment - After pressure washing, before patina application



During Treatment - Patina being applied



During Treatment - Applying the hot wax treatment – Note the rich color



After Treatment - Patina restoration complete



Before Treatment



During Treatment – Darker areas denote corrosion removal using pressure washing



During Treatment - Hot waxing patinaed surface



During Treatment - Detail shows richness & depth of patina



After Treatment – Detail of patina





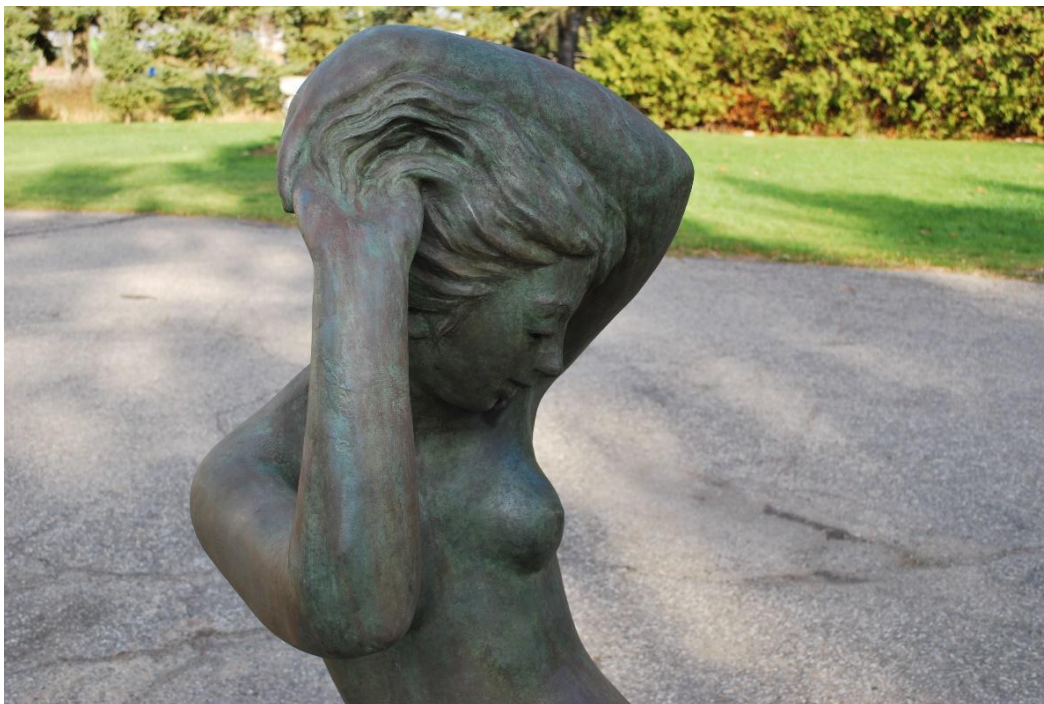
After Treatment



Before Treatment



During Treatment – After pressure washing



During Treatment – Patina completed - before waxing



After Treatment



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