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Jean-Galbert Salvage

French (Paris), 1770–1813

**Anatomy of the
Fighting Gladiator**

(Anatomie du Gladiateur
combattant), 1812

Two-layer copperplate engravings
Anonymous loan

Since its discovery in 1611, the *Borghese Gladiator*—seen nearby in Vinache’s original-sized bronze cast—was admired and employed as a model of anatomical study. The anatomical treatise on this statue by the military doctor Jean-Galbert Salvage meticulously records the muscular and skeletal systems of the *Borghese Gladiator* in twenty-two large-

scale engraved plates, accompanied by a detailed descriptive text. In order to check the sculptural representation of anatomy against reality, and to achieve the utmost precision in his two-layer copperplate engravings, Salvage dissected the bodies of young soldiers killed in duels and arranged them in the sculpture’s pose.

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