

XU ZHEN SOLO EXHIBITION

LONG MUSEUM WEST BUND
2015.3.28 – 5.24



MADEIN
COMPANY

On the occasion of the first anniversary of its inauguration, the Long Museum West Bund will host the grand opening of *Xu Zhen Solo Exhibition* on March 28, 2015. Xu Zhen is an iconic, leading figure within the realm of contemporary Chinese art, and moreover he is the most sought-after international contemporary artist currently. Surveying art ancient and new, the artist marshals Chinese and Western cultures and fuses the quintessence of both. Through his meticulous treatment and distinctive integration of global knowledge and information, he generates an infinite degree of creativity.

Xu Zhen (born in 1977 in Shanghai, China) engages in an artistic practice that takes in numerous forms of mediums, including painting, sculpture, installation, video, photography and performance, among others. Within the 30 000-odd sqm space of Long Museum West Bund, this exhibition will showcase over a hundred works, which include not only his earlier representative individual works from the late-1990s but also a series of new works produced after Xu Zhen's Madeln Company launched the "Xu Zhen" brand in 2013. Highlights include *European Thousand-Hand Classical Sculpture*, *Artworks Set-Arrogance*, the new works *The Soldier of Marathon Announcing Victory*, *A Wounded Galatian* and *Northern Qi Standing Buddha*, *Amazon and Barbarian* from the *Eternity* series, as well as the series *Madeln Curved Vase*, *Metal Language* and *Corporate*.

The exhibition's advertising slogan—"Witness the Creation of History"—brings to light the sense in which this exhibition echoes history and cultural innovation. At the same time, this equally signals a breakthrough and a leap forward in the artist's career. It may appear as a matter of course that history is considered a symbol of the past, an exemplar of culture, and a cipher of tradition, and yet Xu Zhen continually breaks down this predetermined mode of thought, deploying everything from within the farrago of global culture. He inherits history and is broadly nourished by tradition; taking up a stance replete with cultural self-confidence and a high degree of cultural reflexivity, he lives for the contemporary.

With his characteristic humor, Xu Zhen intervenes in all manners of subject matter concerning global culture. With a taut expressiveness, he ingeniously integrates a Western spirit with Eastern culture—a new culture which transcends traditional schemas is hereby born. The all-new creation *European Thousand-Hand Classical Sculpture* assembles 19 different Western classical sculptures of various forms; borrowing from the shape of the Thousand-Hand Guanyin (Bodhisattva) in Buddhist iconography, the work deals with both the sense of form and spirituality, thereby manifesting a vigorous vitality which dumbfounds the audience's visual perception. *Artworks Set* is a compilation of selected creations according to specific topics. Displayed in a box, as a curated exhibition, the composition constitutes a reflection celebration. *Eternity* grafts the dignified and serene Buddhist statues of the East together with elegant and exquisite Greek statues, thus cutting across vast expanses of space and time; its references to an awe-inspiring scale of art history points to the capaciousness of Eastern wisdom. *Eternity—The Soldier of Marathon Announcing Victory*, *A Wounded Galatian* joins two Western sculptural works; its absurd and yet stunning visual effect perfectly showcases the balance of force and belief. *Madeln Curved Vase* turns the necks of ancient Chinese classics of ceramics by 90 degrees and accomplishes the greatest act in ceramic history. *Physique of Consciousness Museum*, by incorporating social, religious, and traditional forms as elements, invents a calisthenics for the mind and spirit—a first in the world. *Metal Language* collects words from political caricatures and spells out independent and yet vivid phrases with metal chains, thereby fully developing the tactility of thought. In the newly launched *Black Light* series of *Under Heaven*, meanwhile, a sweeping and cavernous forest of black "cream" exudes an intense air of mystery, spouting forth a fearless and dauntless force.

The exhibition will furthermore present a series of Xu Zhen's earlier representative individual works. These include the video *Shouting*, created in 1998, where on the crowded streets of Shanghai, Xu Zhen suddenly bursts out screaming—the fright and bewilderment in the crowd's faces, turned backwards, were fully captured. In *Rainbow*, a man's back is beaten until it burns red, and yet the hand doing the beating is abstracted; an intuitive sense of the body and of life is hence clearly seen. This work, moreover, made him the youngest Chinese artist ever to have participated in the main thematic exhibition of the Venice Biennale. The installation *ShanghART Supermarket* recreates a convenience store on-site: the shelves are crammed full of empty products, while the items, sold at their ordinarily marked prices, only have the external shells of their packaging. The emptiness and the lack of content hit the nail on the head—the dialectical relationship between art and commodity is challenged anew.

In the globalized post-Internet contemporary, Xu Zhen has continually pioneered forms of artistic creation. As an artist, he also tackles the roles of the curator, entrepreneur, and gallerist. Amid these interchanging identities, he nevertheless ensures that the creation maintains a high degree of consistency and leads Madeln Company to expand comprehensively in cultural fields—developing curatorial production, research and publications, from galleries to limited-edition artworks. By initiating each of these, he practices what he preaches: the core concept of "producing creativity".

XU Zhen Solo Exhibition

Opening Date: Mar 28th 2015, 17:00

Exhibition Dates: Mar 29th – May 24th 2015

Exhibition Venue: Gallery I & Corridor Gallery, LONG MUSEUM WEST BUND

Address: No. 3398, Longteng Avenue, Xuhui District Shanghai



Xu Zhen
EUROPEAN THOUSAND-ARMS CLASSICAL SCULPTURE
2014
Installation (glass fiber reinforced concrete, marble grains, marble, metal)
340 × 1470 × 473 cm
3 Editions
Produced by Madeln Company



Xu Zhen
 "ARROGANCE" SET
 2015
 Artworks set
 290 x 150 x 324 cm
 3 Editions + 2 AP
 Produced by MadIn Company

This artworks set includes: *Eternity-Poseidon*, *Pigeons* (sculpture, 2014), *Physique of Consciousness* (practice video, 2011), *Dollar Man* (toy, 2010), *Focus* (installation, 2015), *Madeln Curved Vase-Dragon*, *Phoenix and Prunus Pattern*, *Yongzheng Period Qing Dynasty* (ceramic, 2014), *Under Heaven* (oil on canvas, aluminium, 2014), *Supermarket* (project, 2007/2015), *PIMO True Image* series T-shirt.



Xu Zhen
"SPIRIT" Set
2015

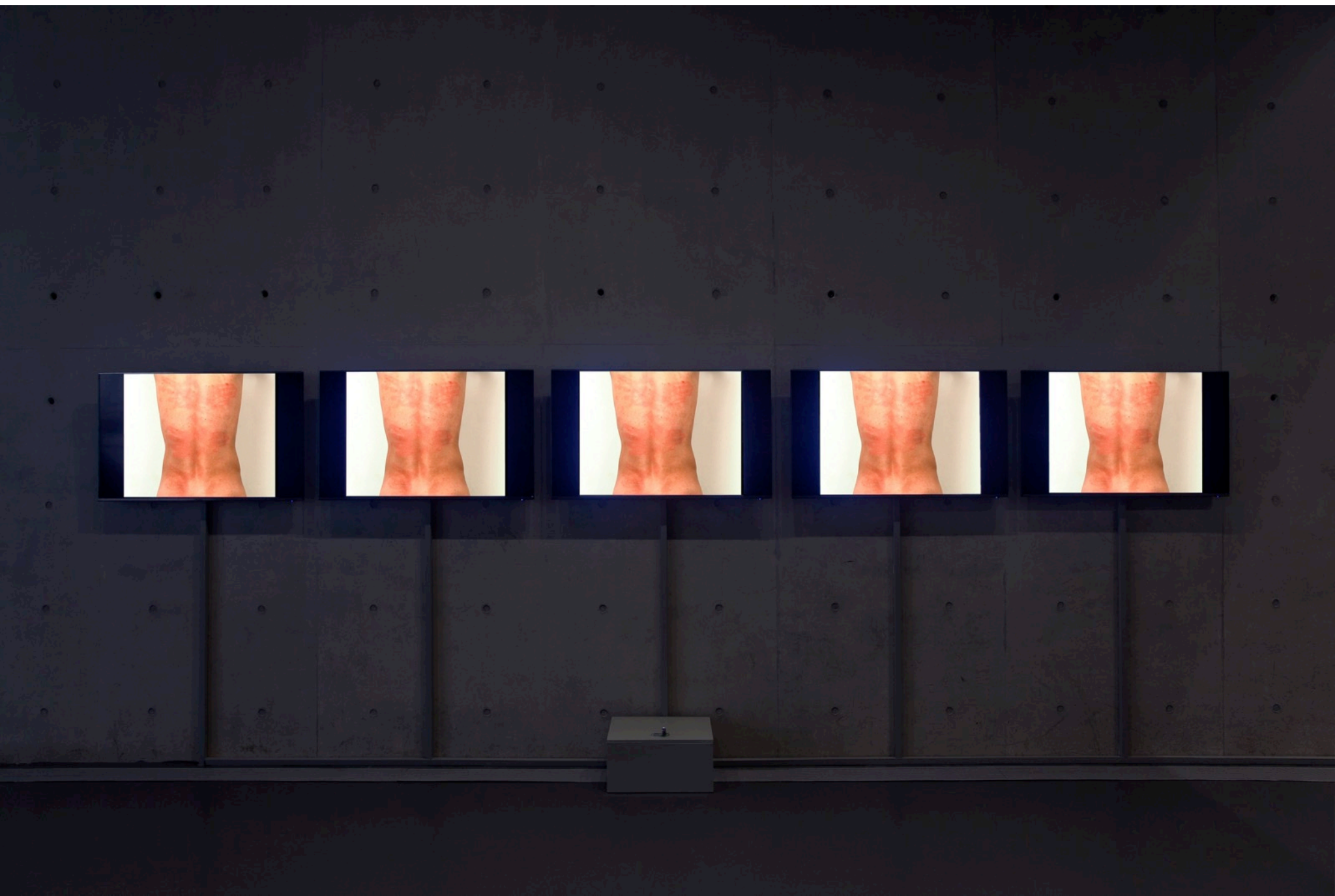
Artworks set
85 x 50 x 160 cm
3 Editions + 2 AP
Produced by Madeln Company

Artworks set includes: *Physique of Consciousness* (practice manual, 2011), *March 6th-Psychiatric Hospital Patient Clothing* (performance, 2002/2015), *Supermarket* (project, 2007/2015)



Xu Zhen
“EXPRESSION” SET
2015
Artworks set
115 x 50 x 80 cm
3 Editions + 2 AP
Produced by Madeln Company

Artworks set includes: *Metal Language* (See No Evil, Hear No Evil, Say No Evil, 2014), *Movement* (spray paint on canvas and aluminium, 2015), *Graffiti-Gaz tank* (installation, 2015)



Xu Zhen
RAINBOW
1998
Video, 3'12"
5 Editions



Xu Zhen
8848-1.86
2005
Video, 8'11"
5 Editions



Xu Zhen
ETERNITY-THE SOLDIER OF MARATHON ANNOUNCING VICTORY, A WOUNDED GALATIAN
2014
Installation (glass fiber reinforced concrete, marble grains, marble, metal)
157 x 96 x 250 cm
3 Editions + 2 AP
Produced by Madeln Company



Xu Zhen
UNDER HEAVEN-BLACK LIGHT SERIES
2014
Oil on canvas, aluminium
330 × 15 × 230 cm each
Produced by Madeln Company





Xu Zhen
MADEIN CURVED VASE-VAULT-OF-HEAVEN VASE WITH MAGPIE PATTERN, QIANLONG PERIOD, QING DYNASTY
2014
Installation (porcelain)
36 x 36 x 55 cm
4 Editions + 1 AP
Produced by MadeIn Company



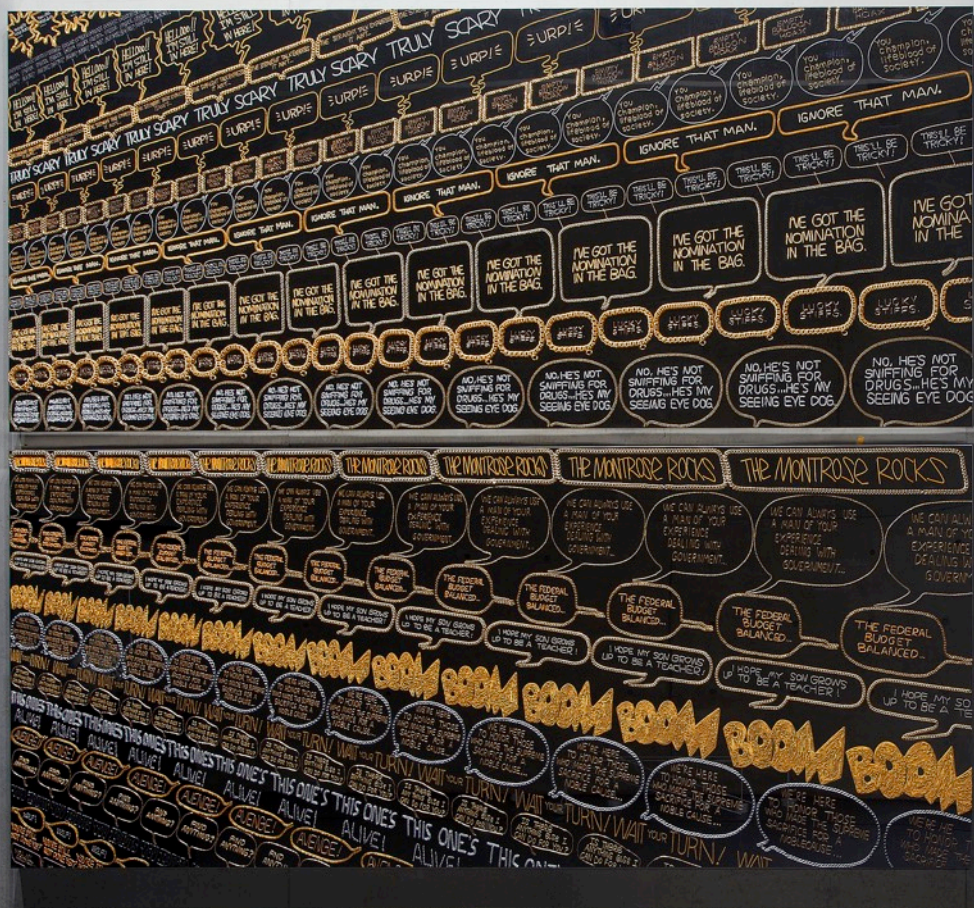
Xu Zhen
ETERNITY-SUI DYNASTY GOLD GILDED AND PAINTED STANDING BUDDHA, VENUS DE VIENNE
2015

Installation (glass fiber reinforced concrete, marble grains, sandstone grains, mineral pigments, marble, metal)

110 × 85 × 357 cm

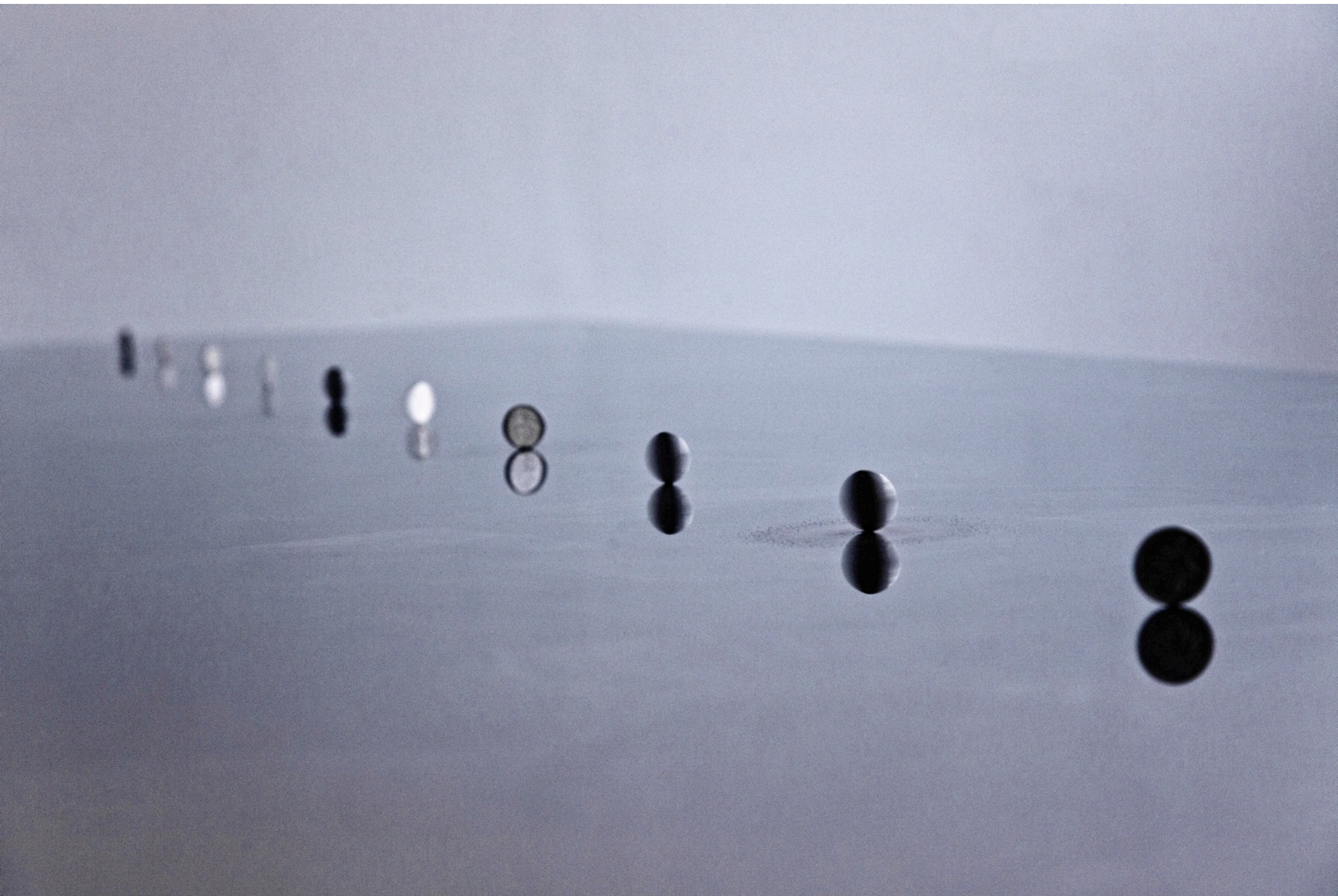
3 Editions + 2 AP

Produced by Madeln Company



Xu Zhen
IGNORE THAT MAN
2014

Mirror finish stainless steel, metal chains
340 x 6 x 287 cm
Produced by Madeln Company



Xu Zhen
NEVER FALLS
2014

Mirror finish stainless steel, metal chains
340 x 6 x 287 cm
Produced by Madeln Company



Xu Zhen
JUST DID IT
2007
Sand corn, microscope
2 x 3 mm each approximately
4 Editions + 1 AP



Xu Zhen
SEE NO EVIL, HEAR NO EVIL, SAY NO EVIL
2014
Mirror finish stainless steel, metal chains
450 x 6 x 160 cm
Produced by Madeln Company



Xu Zhen

THE CONSUMER SOCIETY IS A CANCER; 'WE HAVE TO GIVE IT BACK SOME SOUL.', NO. 1, MATERIAL: GAS STOVE, CLAY SCULPTURE
2013

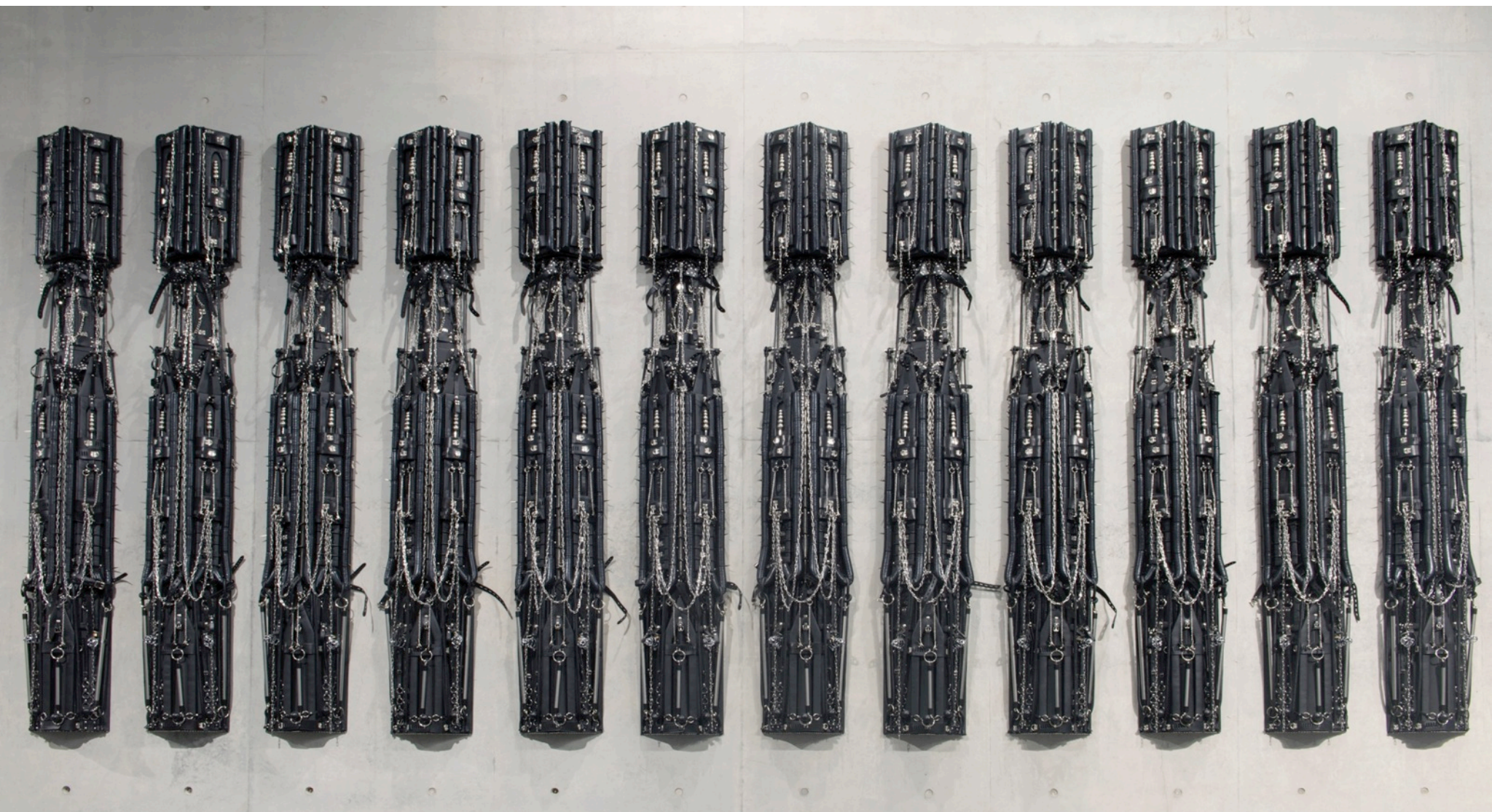
C-print mounted on cardboard

230 x 340 x 42 cm

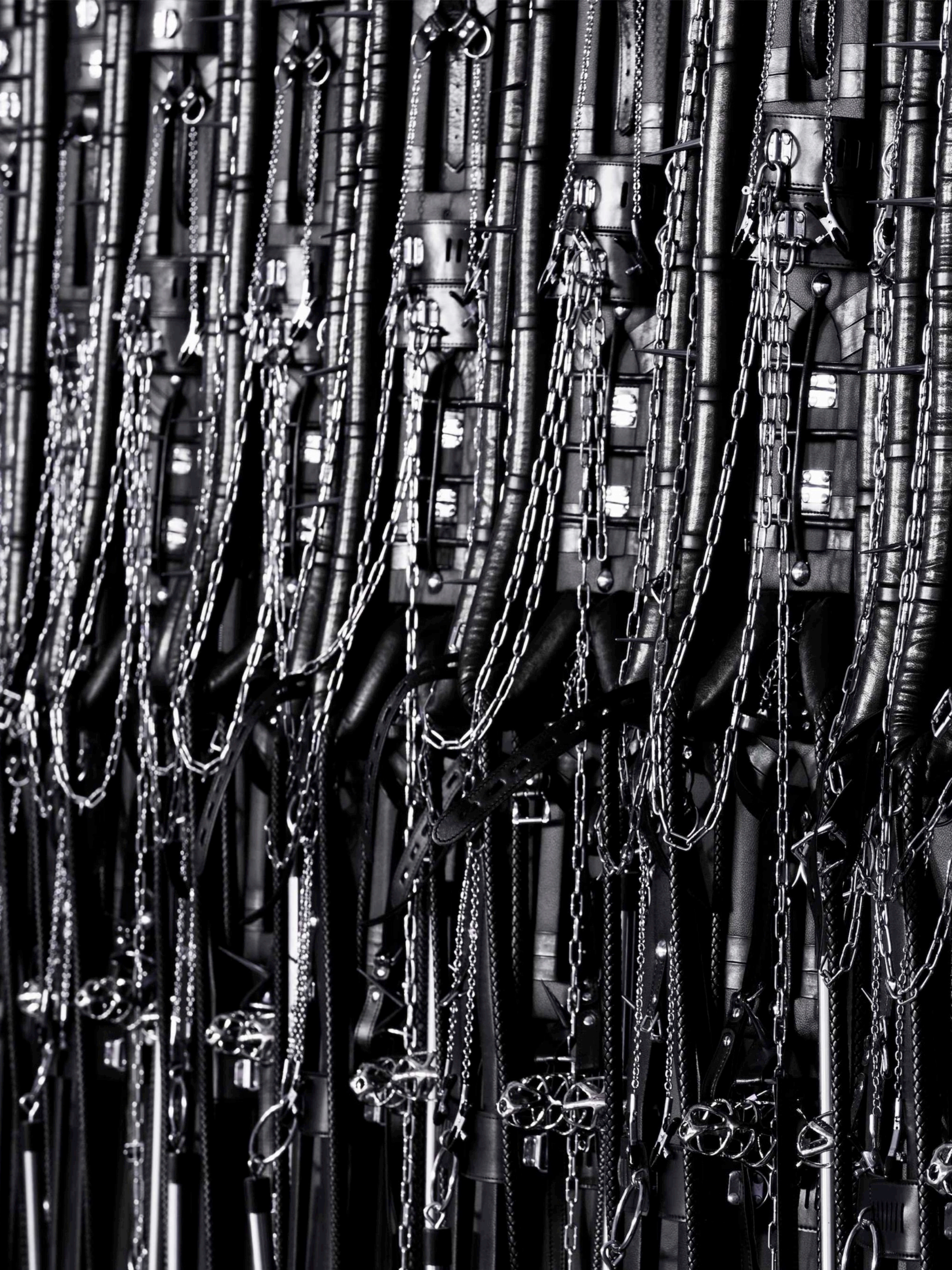
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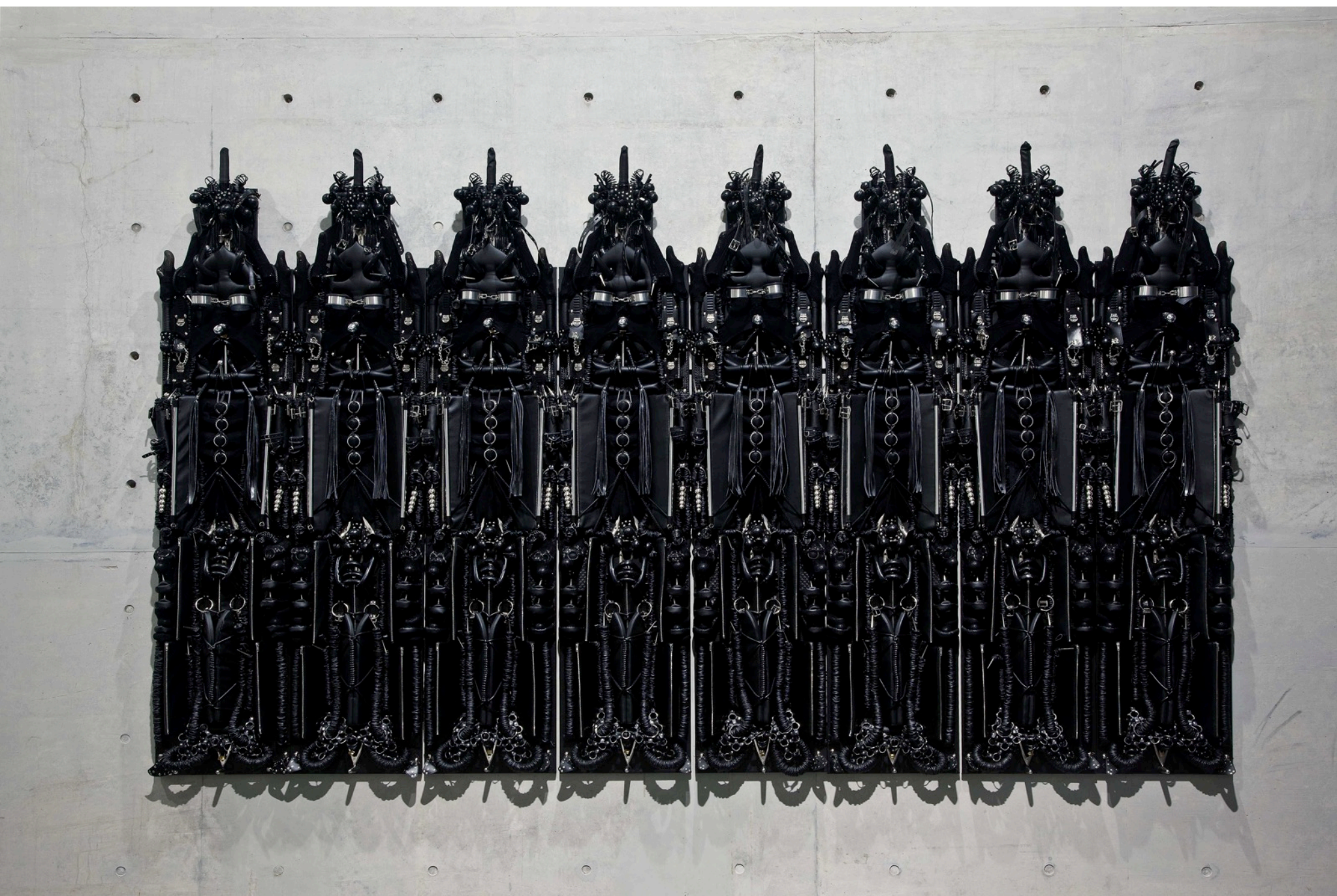


Xu Zhen
SPHYNXXXXXXXXXX
2015
Fabric, mixed media
21.5 × 32 × 53.5 cm
Produced by Madeln Company

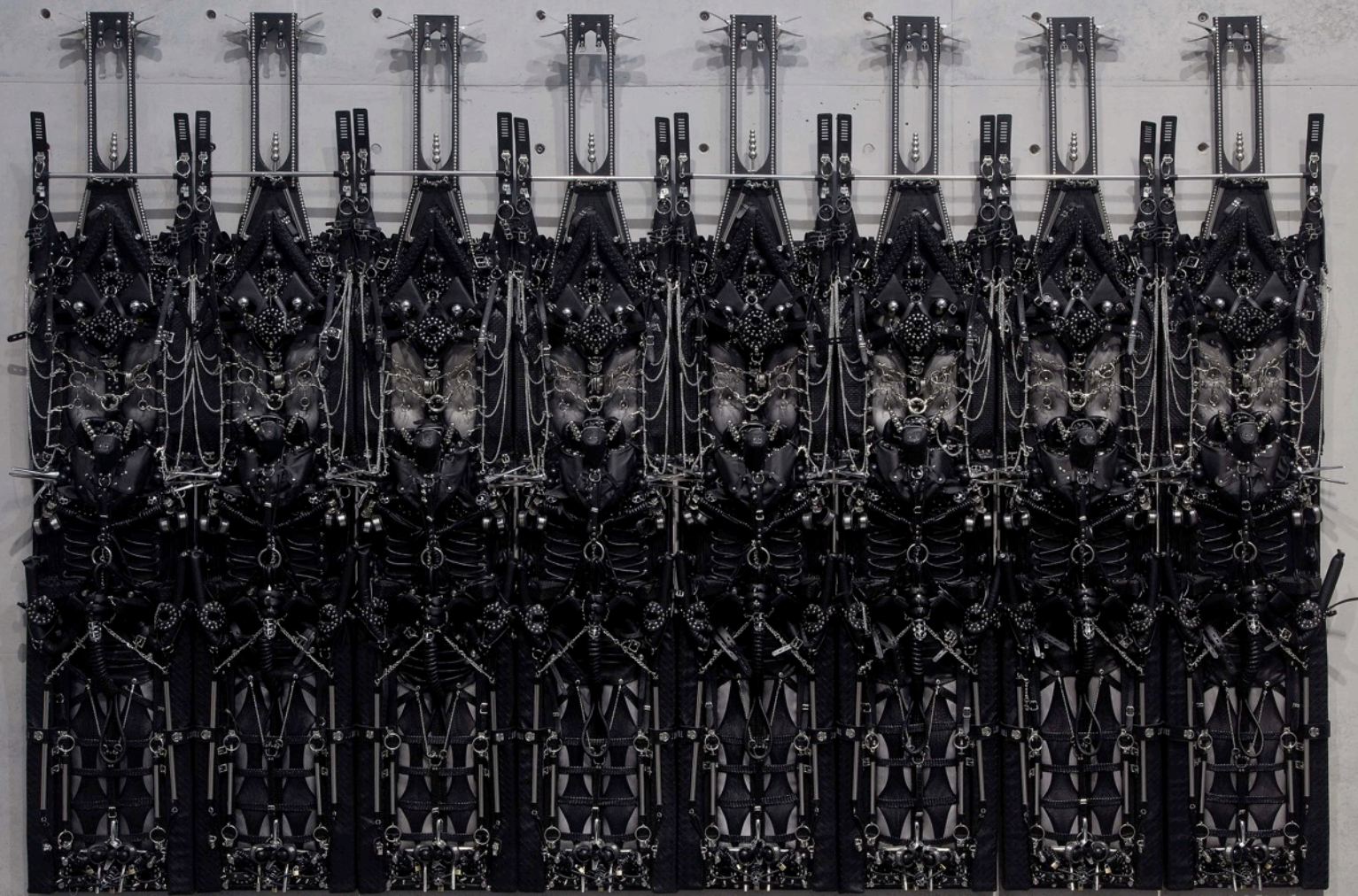


Xu Zhen
CORPORATE-(ABSTINENCE)
Installation (genuine and artificial leather, BDSM accessories, foam, metal, wood)
2014
490 × 15 × 320 cm
Produced by Madeln Company





Xu Zhen
CORPORATE-(SPEW)
Installation (genuine and artificial leather, BDSM accessories, foam, metal, wood)
2014
410 x 19 x 256 cm
Produced by Madeln Company



Xu Zhen
CORPORATE-(APHRODISIAC)
2014

Installation (genuine and artificial leather, BDSM accessories, foam, metal, wood)
476 x 25 x 320 cm
Produced by Madeln Company



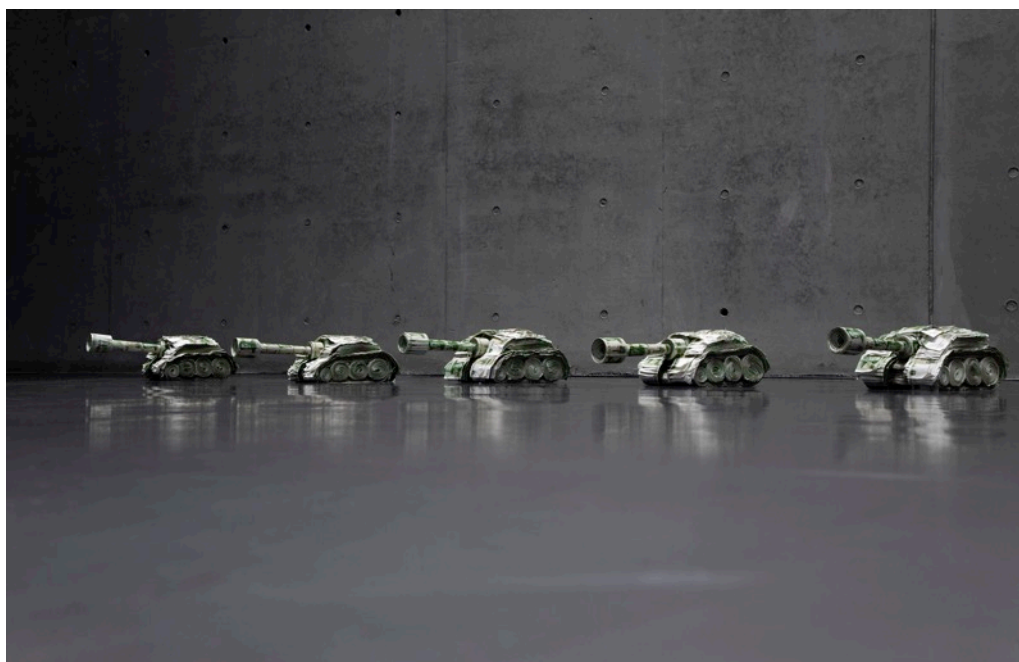
Xu Zhen
SHOUTING
1998
Video, 4'
5 Editions



Xu Zhen
ETERNITY-NORTHERN QI STANDING BUDDHA, AMAZON AND BARBARIAN
2014
Installation (glass fiber reinforced concrete, marble grains, metal, gold foil)
340 x 115 x 340 cm
3 Editions
Produced by Madeln Company



Xu Zhen
MADEIN CURVED VASE-BLUE-AND-JUN YAO GLAZED LOTUS SEEDPOD VASE, QIANLONG PERIOD, QING DYNASTY
2014
Installation (porcelain)
17 x 17 x 31 cm
4 Editions + 1 AP
Produced by Madeln Company



Xu Zhen
SMALL CHANGE (RENMINBI TANK)
2011/2014
One Renminbi banknote
23 x 50 x 17 cm
20 Editions
Produced by Madeln Company



Xu Zhen
SHANGHART SUPERMARKET
2007/2015
Shelves, multiple product packages
367 x 100 x 20 cm
4 Editions + 1 AP



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