

For Immediate Release

Zhan Wang

5 September – 3 October



Artificial Rock No. 85 by Zhan Wang, courtesy Albion

Albion is proud to present an exhibition of work by the world-renowned Chinese artist **Zhan Wang**.

Focusing on the tension between old and new, as reflected in the rapidly-changing landscape of China today, Zhan's work poses a number of questions about the meaning and significance of tradition.

Made from stainless steel, reaching four meters in height and weighing 400kg, these monumental works form part of Zhan Wang's ongoing **Artificial Rocks** series. The forms and title reference traditional Chinese scholar rocks; unusually shaped stones, weathered by the elements, collected as objects of connoisseurship since the Tang Dynasty (618-907 AD), that functioned as metaphorical stand-ins for and windows to the natural world.

Zhan Wang's man-made burnished *Artificial Rocks* draw upon this tradition, whilst commenting on the illusory and reflective environs that encircle our contemporary lives, by reconfiguring them into stainless steel shells.

He painstakingly pounds, bends, heats and moulds sections of stainless steel plate around rocks that he collects from quarries throughout China. After the steel has been shaped around its surface, it is peeled away in sections, welded together as a single unit (a now hollow duplicate of the rock) and polished to a flawless silvery sheen. The resultant shimmering, reflective qualities of the rocks resonate with the changing values

of contemporary society and allude to reflection in both the meditative sense and the reflective surfaces of the sculpture.

Biographical information

Born in Beijing in 1962, Zhan Wang is internationally recognised as one of the most important artists of his generation. As well as exhibiting on numerous occasions in China, he has exhibited extensively throughout museums in Europe and North America.

Other notable achievements include his selection to exhibit in the inaugural Chinese pavilion at the 50th Venice Biennale and the commission to produce a large work outside the DeYoung Museum, San Francisco for the opening of this new Herzog & de Meuron building. Additionally, he was recently given a showcase in his largest solo exhibition to date at the National Art Museum of China, Beijing 2008 with a major accompanying monograph. His work is currently also installed at the British Museum until February 2009 as part of the China Now Festival.

Opening times: Monday to Friday: 9am – 5.30pm

Saturday: 10am - 3pm

Media Contact

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