

# Xu Zhen

## Artist Statement and Biography

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### Artist Statement

*Eternity - Victory of Samothrace, Tianlongshan Grottoes Bodhisattva* by Xu Zhen consists of a sculptural composition created by headless Western and Asian statues displayed in museums throughout the world. These headless statues are grafted and assembled together.

The timeless art of eternal gods and Buddhas represents the highest level of civilization throughout the history of Man. These masterpieces are also a reflection of the history of colonialism, violence and the conflicts and relationships between cultures. Xu Zhen combines these major sculptures from Western and Asian art history, creating a shocking visual effect through the 'mutilation' of classical aesthetics of sculpture. Apart from the reference to art history, this work also symbolizes the irreconcilable differences within humanity's Tower of Babel and reflects a certain oriental conciliatory wisdom.

## Artist Biography

### **Xu Zhen** **China**

b. 1977

Artist, curator, MadelN Company founder

Over his already long career, Xu Zhen (born 1977, living and working in Shanghai) has exhibited internationally, at museums and biennales, such as, Venice Biennale (2001, 2005), The Museum of Modern Art (New York, 2004), ICP (2004), Mori Art Museum (2005), PS1 (2006), Tate Liverpool (2007). In 2004, he won the prize for 'Best Artist' at the China Contemporary Art Award. Recent exhibitions include *Xu Zhen: Forbidden Castle* (Montanelli Museum, Prague, Czech Republic, 2012) *12 Rooms*, Ruhrtriennale (Museum Folkwang, Gelsenkirchen, 2012), *Art of Change* (Hayward Gallery, London, 2012), *11 Rooms* (Manchester International Festival, Manchester City Galleries, 2011).

Aside from being an artist, Xu Zhen is also a curator and actively organizes various art activities. He co-curated together with other artists major exhibitions in Shanghai and was one of the initiators of the contemporary art forum on Internet Art-Ba-Ba ([www.art-ba-ba.com](http://www.art-ba-ba.com)) in 2006. In 2009, Xu Zhen established 'MadelN Company', a contemporary art creation corporate, focused on the production of creativity, and devoted to the research of contemporary culture's infinite possibilities. MadelN Company's selected exhibitions include: *The 12<sup>th</sup> Biennale of Lyon* (Lyon, France, 2013), *The 7<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art* (Gallery of Modern Art and Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia, 2012); *The Unseen- The 4<sup>th</sup> Guangzhou Triennial* (Guangdong Museum of Art, Canton, China, 2012); *Surplus Authors*, (Witte de With, Rotterdam, the Netherlands, 2012), *The 1st Kiev Biennale* (Arsenale, Kiev, Ukraine, 2012), *Inside the White Cube* (White Cube, London, U.K., 2012); *Sleeping Life Away* (Nathalie Obadia Gallery, Paris, France, 2012).

In 2013, MadelN Company launched the brand "Xu Zhen". Recent exhibitions comprise: *Xu Zhen-A MadelN Company Production* (UCCA, Beijing, China, 2014), *The 12<sup>th</sup> Biennale of Lyon*, (Lyon, France, 2013), *China, China* (Pinchuk Art Center, Kiev, Ukraine, 2013) and *Movement Field- Xu Zhen Solo Exhibition, produced by MadelN Company* (Long March Space, Beijing, China, 2013).

At last, MadelN Company established the first museum dedicated to human thinking and act, as well as body language, "Physique of Consciousness Museum". This institution will be composed of a permanent displaying space open to the public in Shanghai and a large research department. Selected artifacts of the museum are regularly included in various exhibitions and biennales worldwide. MadelN Company also launched a gallery, "MadelN Gallery", fully promoting artists, and creating a new cultural wave.