



WANG KEPING

Flower Vase

Exhibition from September 9 to October 14, 2022
Opening night Thursday September 8 from 6 to 8 PM
in presence of the artist
and during PARIS DESIGN WEEK 2022



Wang Keping

Pendant-necklace *Flower Vase 5, 1 and 6*,
Ebony, galvanized and 18k yellow golden flower
Unique piece for MiniMasterpiece, 2022
Dimensions of the wood 9,8 x 6 x 1,8 cm
© MiniMasterpiece

It is in 2021 that **Wang Keping** starts his collaboration with the MiniMasterpiece gallery. Questioned by Esther de Beauce on his jewelry experience, he answers:

« The jewels that I create are like small sculptures suspended around the neck. Moving from a big house to a smaller one often involves much time to rearrange everything, sometimes you even have to get rid of some furniture. Making a small sculpture sounds easy, but the hardest part is being distinctive, having your own style and language. »

For his first solo exhibition of jewelry intitled *Flower Vase*, the famous Chinese sculptor, living in France since 1984, will present at the MiniMasterpiece gallery a set of 10 unique pieces in ebony associated with galvanized and golden flowers and leaves. Uniting sensual forms and vegetal poetry, **Wang Keping's** new wearable sculptures offer visitors and future collectors an unprecedented relationship with his usually monumental work in a way combines intimacy, physical proximity and a reciprocal relationship with the body.

For **Wang Keping** and his work, the year 2022 promises to be intense, being hailed by several outstanding events, especially in Paris. These include his recent residency "Wang Keping at Work" at the Rodin Museum and his upcoming solo exhibition at the Guimet Museum in the autumn.

HD IMAGES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST
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Wang Keping

Pendant-necklace *Flower Vase 1*,
Ebony, galvanized and 18k yellow golden flower
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Wang Keping has always favored feminine shapes, curves and rounded shapes. As he says himself "for a sculptor, it is impossible not to be touched by the shape of the female body". In his series of sculptures which he calls "Ex-voto", **Wang Keping** pursues the path of formal simplicity in order to give the greatest poetic power to the material: buttocks, breasts, phallus, testicles, tongues... so many elementary motifs, once banned in his youth in China, which condense life's impulses and through which the artist claims artistic freedom.



Wang Keping

Vase

Bronze, 2004

H.158 cm

Courtesy 10 Chancery Lane Gallery et Wang Keping studio

WANG KEPING

© Aline Wang



Wang Keping was born in 1949 in Beijing, China. He has lived and worked in Paris since 1984.

Wang Keping began to carve wood as an autodidact at the end of the 1970s, after having been, during the cultural revolution, successively, peasant, worker, then actor and screenwriter for national TV.

Thanks to the Beijing Spring, he participated in the Democracy Wall and organized in 1979, the first unofficial art exhibition ever to take place in China on the gates of the Museum of Fine Arts in Beijing with the group of artists The Stars (Xingxing / 星星). He hung his manifesto sculpture Silence there, depicting a face/mask with his right eye closed and his mouth blocked, to express the lack of freedom of expression and the censorship in place.

Thus, the sculptor places himself at the forefront of the national artistic avant-garde while embodying the opposition to the post-Mao communist regime. Exiled to France in the 1980s, he developed a very free practice of wood carving, with regard to Chinese artistic traditions and those of the cultural revolution.

In France, **Wang Keping** abandons political themes to prefer the representation of the female body, intertwined couples, more rarely birds. Starting from fallen trunks in the forest like branches brought back to the workshop, he works alone with a chainsaw, a blowtorch or a carpenter's chisel. Since then, he has produced, in France, his host country, a work recognized internationally as one of the strongest and most original contributions to contemporary sculpture.



Galerie MiniMasterpiece, created in the Spring of 2012 by Esther de Beaucé, is the first Parisian gallery exclusively dedicated to the edition and sale of jewellery by renown contemporary visual artists and designers.

Like a very private collection that one wears and carries along, artists jewellery first strike by the love, the friendship and the challenge that have preceeded their existence. These miniature works of art tell us about another History of Art, that of intimacy and passion. For collectors, choosing an artist or a designer jewel, wearing it around the neck, the wrist or the finger, is a statement. For the artists it is both a pastime and a challenge, that is to achieve the successfull confrontation of their monumental work to the scale of the body.

Those who have so far worked directly with the gallery include the artists **Joana Vasconcelos**, **Wang Keping**, **Jean-Luc Moulène**, **Julio Le Parc**, **François Morellet**, **Katinka Bock**, **Barthélémy Toguo**, **Françoise Pétrovitch**, **Véra Molnar**, **Nicolas Buffe**, **Carlos Cruz-Diez**, **Philippe Ramette**, **Phillip King**, **Miguel Chevalier**, **Pablo Reinoso**, **Sophia Vari**, **Andres Serrano**, **None Futbol Club**, **Faust Cardinali**, **Jacqueline de Jong** and designers **Christian Ghion**, **Pierre Charpin**, **Constance Guisset**, **Pierre Gonalons**, **Nestor Perkal**, **David Dubois**, **François Azambourg**, **A+A Cooren**, **Frédéric Ruyant**, **Maurice Marty** and **Cédric Ragot**.

Galerie MiniMasterpiece - 16 rue des Saints Pères - Paris 7 - France