



WANG KEPING

Dans la lune

November 15 - December 21 2024

In 2021, **Wang Keping** began his collaboration with Galerie MiniMasterpiece. Asked at the time by Esther de Beaucé about his experience of jewelry, he replied:

"The jewels I create are like small sculptures hung around the neck. When you move from a big house to a smaller one, it takes a lot of time to rearrange everything, and sometimes you even have to get rid of certain pieces of furniture. Making a small sculpture sounds easy, but the hardest part is standing out from the crowd, having your own style and language."

On the occasion of his second solo jewelry exhibition entitled *Dans la lune*, the celebrated Chinese sculptor, who has lived in France since 1984, will be presenting 5 unique, never-before-seen pieces of jewelry in yellow gold, silver and ebony, including his first ring at Galerie MiniMasterpiece. Combining sensual forms and precious materials, **Wang Keping's** new wearable sculptures offer visitors and future collectors a new relationship with his usually monumental work, one of intimacy and complementarity between the work and one's own body.

Press breakfast

with the artist

Thursday, november 14

9:30am-11am

GALERIE MINIMASTERPIECE

16 rue des Saints-Pères – Paris 7^e

@galerieminimasterpiece
www.galerieminimasterpiece.com

Wang Keping has always favored feminine forms, curves and rounded shapes. In his own words, "for a sculptor, it's 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: buttocks, breasts, phalluses... so many elementary motifs, once forbidden in his youth in China, which condense life impulses and through which the artist claims artistic freedom.

**Wang Keping**

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

Wang Keping began sculpting wood as a self-taught artist in the late 1970s, after having worked as a peasant, a worker, an actor and a scriptwriter for national TV during the Cultural Revolution. During the Beijing Spring, he took part in the Democracy Wall and, in 1979, organized the first unofficial art exhibition ever held in China on the gates of the Beijing Fine Arts Museum with the artist group Les Etoiles (Xingxing / 星星). There, he hangs his manifesto sculpture Silence, featuring a face/mask with its right eye closed and mouth plugged, to express the lack of freedom of expression and censorship in place.

The sculptor was thus at the forefront of the national artistic avant-garde, while at the same time embodying opposition to the post-Mao Communist regime. Exiled to France in 1984, he developed a free-flowing practice of wood sculpture, drawing on both Chinese artistic traditions and those of the Cultural Revolution. In France, Wang Keping abandoned political themes, preferring to depict female bodies, embracing couples and, more rarely, birds. Starting with fallen logs in the forest and branches brought back to the studio, he works alone with a chainsaw, a blowtorch and a carpenter's chisel. Since then, in France, his host country, he has created a body of work internationally recognized as one of the strongest and most original contributions to contemporary sculpture.

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Wang Keping
Dans la lune ring
925 sterling silver
(will also exist in 18k yellow gold)
Edition of 8 and 4 EA
MiniMasterpiece Edition, 2024
Diameter 3.5 cm © MiniMasterpiece

Wang Keping
Pas Facile pendant
in ebony and 18k yellow gold
edition of 8 + 4 EA, signed and numbered
MiniMasterpiece Edition, 2024
© MiniMasterpiece



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Esther de Beaucé

Born in Paris on May 27, 1976, Esther de Beaucé grew up in an international world of art and culture. Her father, a diplomat and writer, and her mother, a journalist who married the artist Bernar Venet, instilled in her a taste for the arts from an early age. Sensitive and curious, Esther, who lived in Tokyo and then Rabat, developed an appetite for creation from an early age. She particularly enjoys meeting artists, talking to art historians and forging links with gallery owners.

Among the decisive encounters on her career path are legendary New York gallery owner Leo Castelli, American artists Frank Stella and Sol Lewitt, French artist Pierre Soulages and also François Morellet, who became the “godfather” of the MiniMasterpiece gallery, entrusting her with a first piece of jewelry to be published.

Esther holds degrees in Anthropology from Brown University in Rhode Island, USA, and in Visual Anthropology from EHESS in Paris.

She became assistant director and producer on some fifteen films and documentary series, notably on design in co-production with Arte and the Centre Pompidou.

In 2005, together with Caroline Schirman, she opened Galerie Schirman & de Beaucé in Paris. The gallery promoted the young French and international art scene until 2012. A new adventure then begins.

Esther decided to continue working with visual artists, but this time in a new format for her: artists’ jewelry. She knows all about the existence and history of these miniature works, as her mother, Diane Venet, has been collecting them for some thirty years.

Her wish was to take up the torch - then abandoned in France - of publishing contemporary artists’ jewelry. In spring 2012, she launched Galerie MiniMasterpiece.

Twelve years later, the Galerie - still nestled at the back of a courtyard in Saint-Germain-des-Près - has expanded. Esther works with some fifty visual artists, designers and architects. All those who don’t specialize in jewelry and whom she encourages to make a radical change of scale. She has organized some forty exhibitions and participated in some fifteen fairs in France, Europe and the United States.

Prestigious new collaborations are revealed every year, and Esther continues to work with collectors to raise awareness of this specialty, which is both jewelry and art.

Esther is married to artist Yann Delacour. They have two children, Jasper (2005) and Titien (2009).

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