

## Re-encounter - Guo Gong solo exhibition



<Qiē Wèn>, is a long-term project for artist Guo Gong. Since 2017, Guo has focused his practice on using materials such as stainless steel, stone, and wood. He experimented with these materials, at points painstakingly laying them out or meticulously stacking them up. The outcome of such transformations creates various textures; sometimes reflective, sharp, organic, or coarse and harsh. The demeanor of sculpting is aimed towards re-creation and unveiling the hidden internity.

<Qiē Wèn>, to the artist, has complex semantics, it looks at the dilatant nature of Chinese characters, but also addresses the simplicity of it being words of a modern language. <Qiē Wèn> poses itself as an open question. Guo Gong's art displaces its concepts from the zeitgeist and acknowledges the artist's discreet, private meaning. In the case of this exhibition, the answer to any question is to ask again, to cut open the question and realise that it is a trajectory of inquisition. This exhibition poses itself as a re-encounter with art, a continuum from the intricacy of cultural study to the refreshingness of visual impacts.

## Artist' s Statement

The words 'Qiē Wèn' come from *The Analects of Confucius*. 'Learn widely and be steadfast in your purpose, inquire earnestly and reflect on what is at hand, and there is no need for you to look for benevolence elsewhere.' To inquire earnestly here is what is said to be 'Qiē Wèn'. To explain 'Qiē' - it is used in traditional Chinese lexicography, 'Fan Qiē', which uses the word to separate syllables in a word. In traditional Chinese medicine, 'Qiē' is the act of touching. Contemporarily, 'Qiē' conveys a sense of sincerity and urgency.

To me, in 'Qiē Wèn', 'Qiē' is an action that physically cuts and opens the insides. Literarily, 'Qiē' is the cutting sensation of emotionality in *Book of Song*. 'To speak is to find sorrow, my senses are being cut.' 'Wèn' is the act of asking and seeking. Hence, we cut, to find out what lies in the act of asking. Re-Encounter is the response to my solo show at Hive Center for Contemporary Art, it is a re-interpretation of my thoughts through this series.

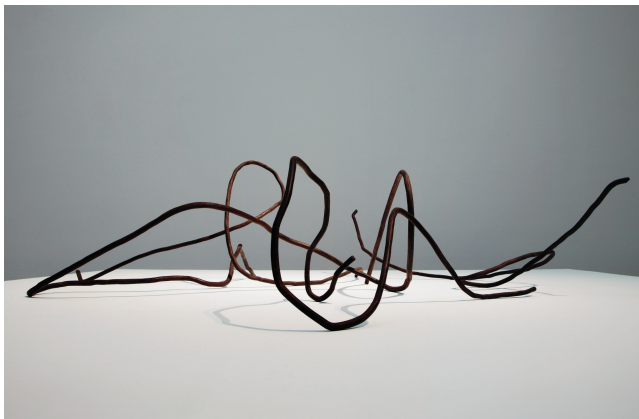


**一棵松No.5/Pine No.5 (2016)**

**350 x 250 x 320 cm**

**Wood, paint, metal**

By cutting into the trunk of a tree through rotary motion, the artistic process creates an animus et factum outcome. This installation art is a part of Guo's renowned Pine series.



**钢筋肖像/The Portrait of Rebar (2016)**

**Various size**

**Rosewood**

The rebar that is made of wood challenges perceptions of materials and the exterior they present. It captures the heaviness of the tenacious metal and the lightness of the wood.



切问 - 不锈钢 B-10/Qie Wen - Stainless Steel B-10 (2017)

56 × 21 × 39 cm

Stainless steel

Stainless steel is a material that displays the resistance against nature that comes from human technology. Sights in the reflection are sometimes clear and sharp, sometimes rugged.



切问 - 玉原石 No.1 No.2/Qie Wen - Raw Jade No.1 No.2 (2020)

10 x 9 x 9 cm , 17x 13 x 10 cm

Jade

This series of small-sized sculptures are made with raw jade stones. With intricate cutting and polishing of the stone, a splitting-open effect is achieved, encapsulating the overlapping image of the natural stone and objects of design.



## About the Artist



Guo Gong

Based in Beijing, China. Born in Shanxi Province, China, 1966. Guo Gong's creative philosophy is based on the belief that "objects" are not just their physicality but also encompass concepts and thoughts. He also believes that human nature and materiality are shared, and one can rediscover lost spirituality by contemplating objects.

*Re-encounter* is Guo Gong's first solo exhibition in Singapore. Guo's artworks have been exhibited in over 13 cities in China, 4 countries in Europe, and the USA.

## About Highlight Art

Highlight Art space was founded in 2001. Since our establishment, we have been committed to exhibiting and supporting the development of Asian contemporary art. Highlight Art is a comprehensive private art consulting company, that provides customised services for private collectors or enterprises, such as art consultation for collection, sales, and other services.

In recent years, Highlight Art's business has also expanded into the field of public art. It has established a professional team of artists and curators, having driven and accomplished many public art projects for local governments and commercial real estate companies.

# HIGHLIGHT

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or by appointment

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