



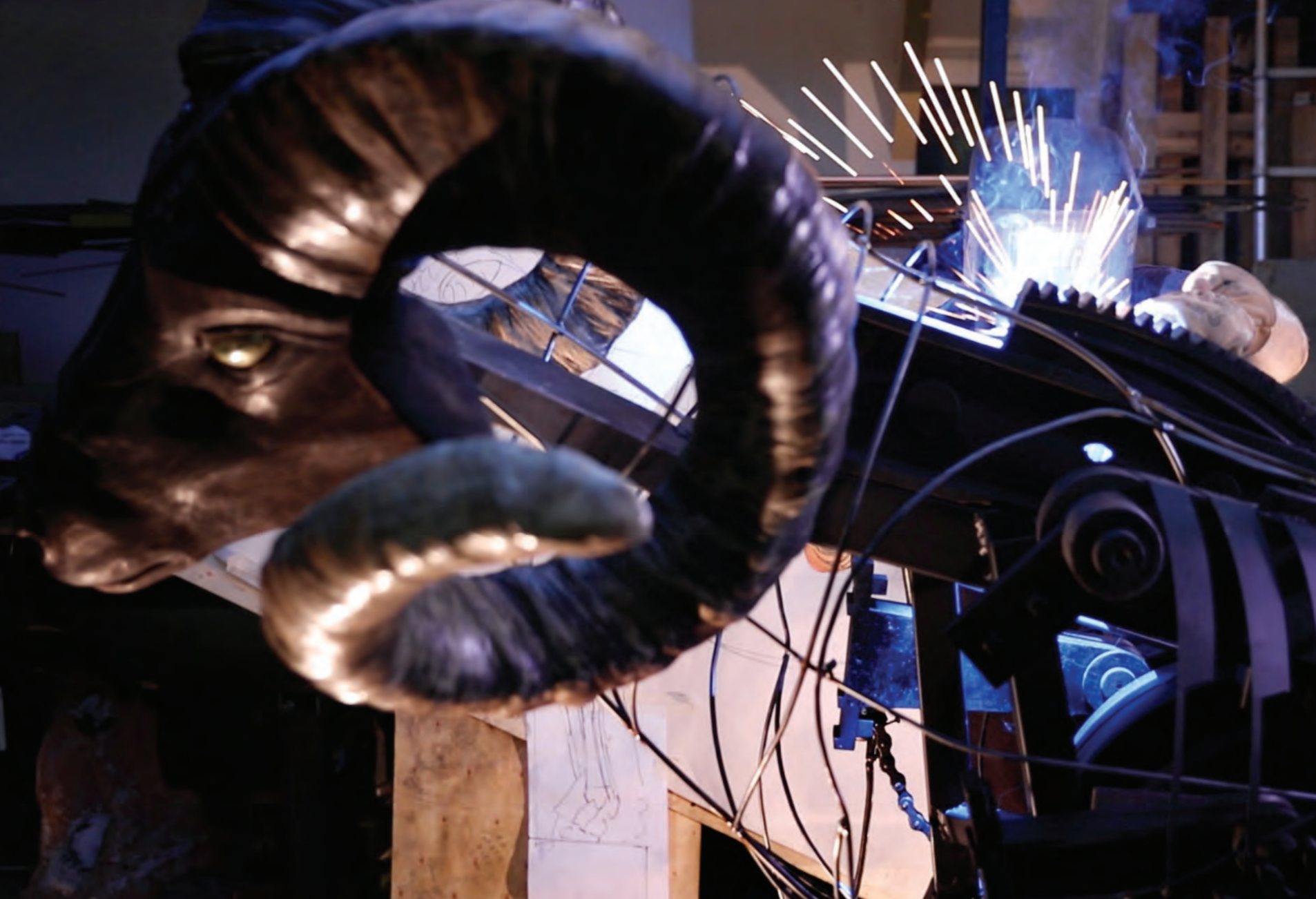
PIERRE MATTER
BEYOND BOUNDARIES

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OPERA GALLERY





PREFACE

Technology as an extension to human faculty is not a recent phenomenon. From 'hunter gatherer' societies to the person sat next to you on the train 'Googling' directions; these tools and the skills adopted to use them, have become so deeply embedded in our being that they have, in turn, become an extension of the human body.

In this post-digital, post-internet age, the rise of 'Artificial Intelligence' is disrupting theories of technology's role as a part of human faculty. With self-learning systems, the idea that machines have the autonomy to function independently, without human intervention, is both terrifying for some and intriguing for others. The parallel development of robotics has prompted many to consider and contemplate the potential sci-fi scenario where machine and human become hybrid as a very real possibility.

Pierre Matter's work is no stranger to the exploration of man and machine entwined. "Like many others of my generation, I think the omnipresence of science and machines, of computers and networks, is certain. The consequent influence of this technological world upon our existence and upon that of the animal world is at the heart of my questioning, and has an important place in my work. Hybridization, the double-edged sword of genetics, nanotechnology and its applications, are all part of our common fate." (Matter, Forbes, 2016)

Matter pushes the boundaries of hypothetical hybridisation that merges humans, animals and machine as a single entity. Using metal, wood and stone, Matter pays homage to the timeless discipline of sculpture and creates works that challenge the limits of what sculpture can be. With immaculate metal patination disguised as marble, Pierre Matter brings an ancient discipline into the 21st century and beyond.

"We live in a transitional epoch, that has made and will continue to bring in to the realms of our reality, monstrous hybrid beings akin to that from ancient mythology. Even the cows grazing on the mountains have become only milk machines". (Matter, 2017). Opera Gallery is pleased to share with you, Pierre Matter's remarkable exhibition of works that stretch beyond the boundaries of expectation in this awe-inspiring display of creative flair.

Gilles Dyan
Founder and President
Opera Gallery Group

Stéphane Le Pelletier
Director
Opera Gallery Asia Pacific

BEYOND BOUNDARIES

As a young man, Pierre Matter wanted to be an astrophysicist. Instead, he became an artist.

By following many paths, through painting, comic book art and bas-relief sculpture, to name a few, he eventually chanced upon a rich universe of potential when he discovered metal work sculpture.

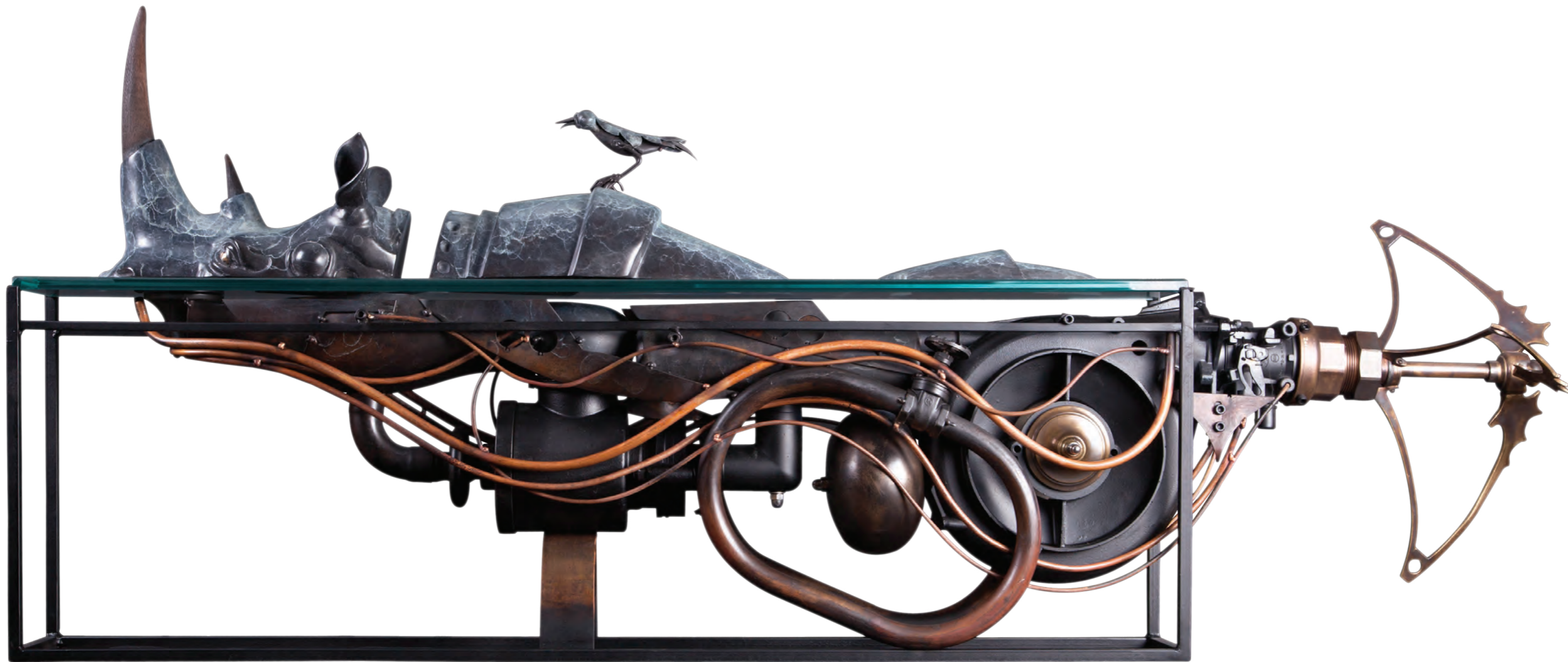
By hammering, welding and melting he has since developed a technique that allows him to fully express his unique and very special vision.

As if from Jules Verne, Metropolis, Jodorowsky and Bilal, his fantastical creatures emerge into our reality. Pieces of scrap metal are given new life, mixed with copper, stainless steel, brass and bronze; they are transformed into bulls, whales, figures or boats, an almost impossible hybrid. Even his babies, with an aura that defies a pre-assumed innocence, play within this imaginary world. A world where machines and technology become one with the living.

This is the power of Pierre Matter's work: his sculptures seem so 'natural' that they almost make us forget that a composite of cogs and pistons contribute towards the make up of this bestiary.

One would not be surprised, in fact, one almost expects to see them leave their moorings, to melt into the crowd in search of their kin...





Sub-Rhino, 2016

Bronze, copper, brass and glass, original
63 x 149 x 38 cm - 24.8 x 58.7 x 15 in.

Antagonisme II, 2016

Bronze, aluminium and brass, original
90 x 90 x 64 cm - 35.4 x 35.4 x 25.2 in.





Impossible Dream, 2013

Bronze, copper and steel, unique piece
40 x 53 x 12 cm - 15.7 x 20.9 x 4.7 in.



Rhino Flying to the Moon, 2017

Bronze, steel and brass, original
226 x 205 x 105 cm - 89 x 80.7 x 41.3 in.



Rhino's Head, 2006

Copper, wood and steel, original
180 x 280 x 90 cm - 70.9 x 110.2 x 35.4 in.

Big Meca Ray, 2013

Bronze and inox, unique piece
183 x 162 x 80 cm - 72 x 63.8 x 31.5 in.





Clément, 2008

Bronze, edition of 8
71 x 100 x 48 cm - 28 x 39.4 x 18.9 in.

Icare's Flight, 2013

Bronze, edition of 8 + 4 AP
129 x 49 x 34 cm - 50.8 x 19.3 x 13.4 in.





Atlantide Man, 2014

Bronze, edition of 8 + 4 AP
74 x 32 x 32 cm - 29.1 x 12.6 x 12.6 in.

Maternité, 2008

Bronze, edition of 8 + 4 AP
92 x 16 x 19 cm - 36.2 x 6.3 x 7.5 in.



Diane le buste, 2008

Bronze, edition of 8 + 4 AP
70 x 50 x 40 cm - 27.6 x 19.7 x 15.7 in.





Forgotten Harmony, 2017

Bronze and stainless steel, unique piece
142 x 150 x 98 cm - 55.9 x 59.1 x 38.6 in.



Just a Dream, 2011

Bronze and copper, unique piece
60 x 50 x 12 cm - 23.6 x 19.7 x 4.7 in.

Little Black Tiger, 2014

Bronze and stainless steel, unique piece
173 x 175 x 61 cm - 68.1 x 68.9 x 24 in.





Clones en quête de futur II, 2012

Bronze, stainless steel and steel, original
98 x 193 x 43 cm - 38.6 x 76 x 16.9 in.



Crocodile nickel, 2016

Bronze, edition of 8
32 x 61 x 27 cm - 12.6 x 24 x 10.6 in.



Motorized Whale, 2012

Bronze, edition of 8 + 4 AP
41 x 131 x 31 cm - 16.1 x 51.6 x 12.2 in.



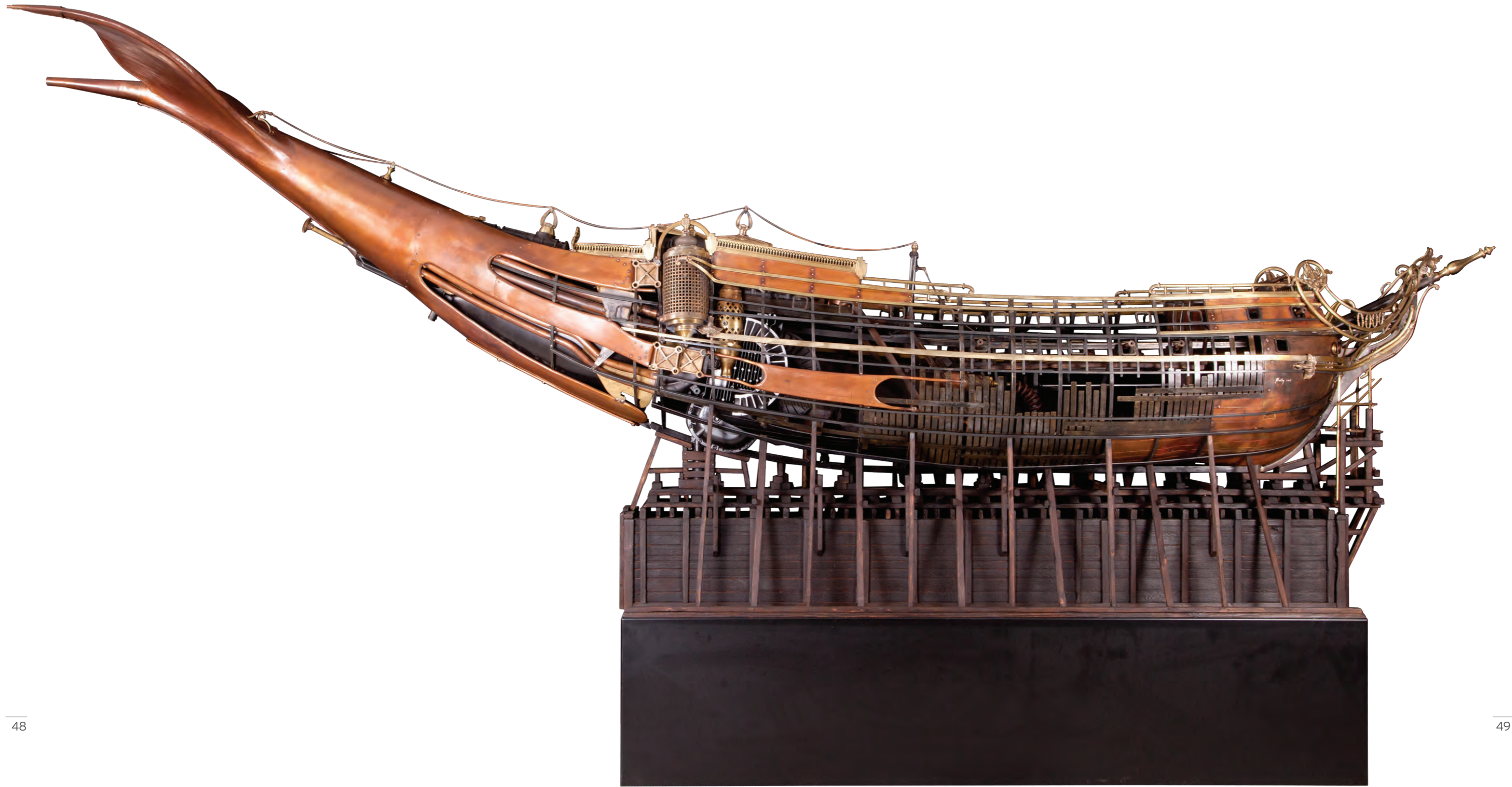


An Albino Swimming Hippo Chrome, 2016

Bronze, edition of 8
45 x 130 x 24 cm - 17.7 x 51.2 x 9.4 in.

Astrolabe, 2015

Bronze, copper, various materials and wood, original
204 x 425 x 101 cm - 80.3 x 167.3 x 39.8 in.





Chasseur ayant avalé un chasseur, 2016

Bronze, edition of 8 + 4 AP
100 x 52 x 26 cm - 39.4 x 20.5 x 10.2 in.



Hippo with Adopted Baby II Chrome, 2016

Bronze, edition of 8 + 4 AP
48 x 130 x 24 cm - 18.9 x 51.2 x 9.4 in.



Hippo with Adopted Baby II, 2016

Bronze, edition of 8 + 4 AP
48 x 130 x 24 cm - 18.9 x 51.2 x 9.4 in.



**Mais que fait ce bout de métal
dans cette chaîne alimentaire ? 2016**

Bronze, edition of 8 + 4 AP
150 x 52 x 26 cm - 59.1 x 20.5 x 10.2 in.



Swimming Baby, 2017

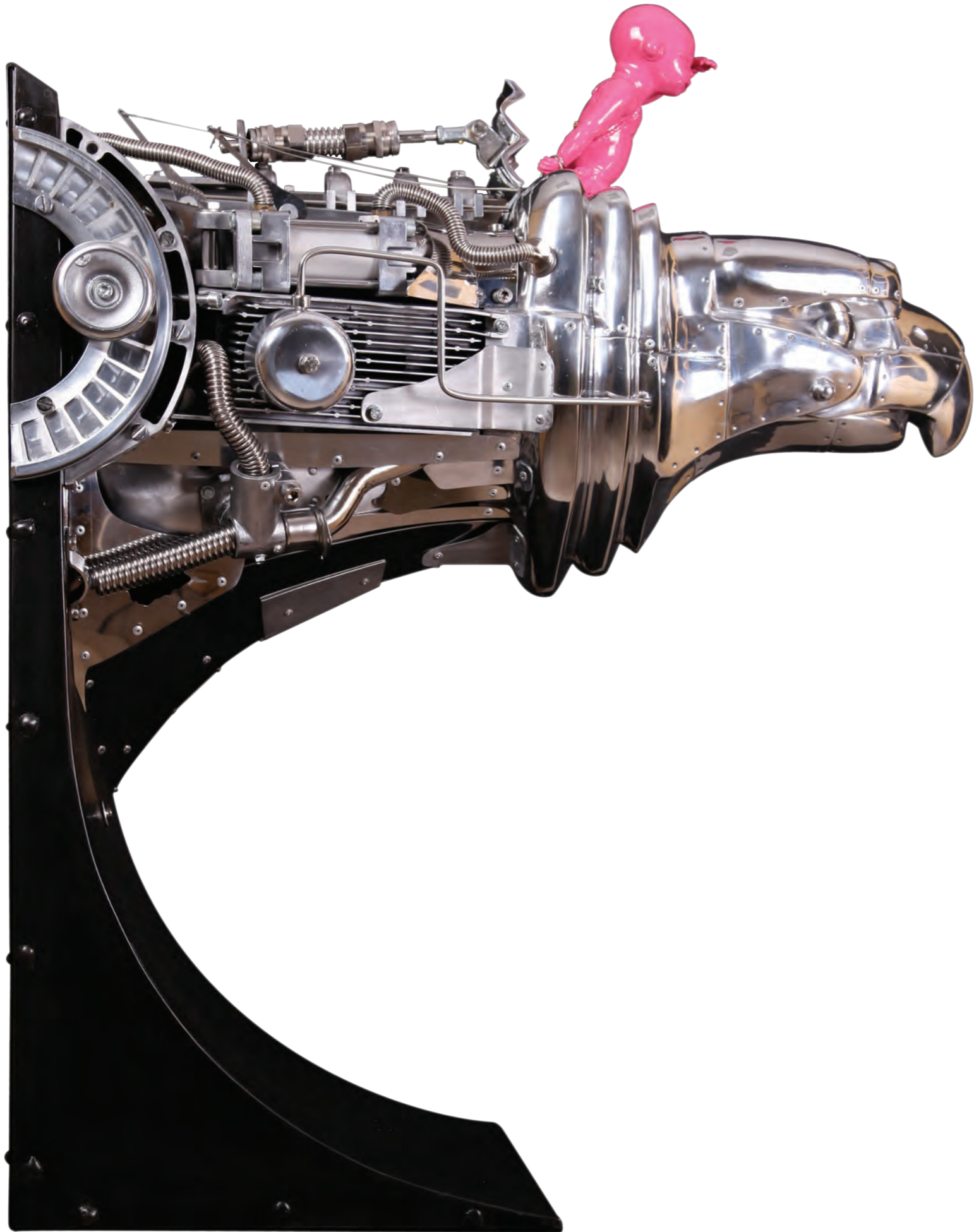
Bronze, edition of 8 + 4 AP
52 x 140 x 40 cm - 20.5 x 55.1 x 15.7 in.



Hey You! PM, 2015

Bronze, edition of 8 + 4 AP
25 x 15 x 15 cm - 9.8 x 5.9 x 5.9 in.





Vaisseau amiral, 2013

Cast aluminium, stainless steel, steel and bronze, original
103 x 83 x 54 cm - 40.6 x 32.7 x 21.3 in.



L'Expérience du miroir, 2013

Bronze, edition of 8 + 4 AP
22 x 31 x 11 cm - 8.7 x 12.2 x 4.3 in.

Rage against the Machine, 2017

Bronze, copper and computer, original
80 x 110 x 40 cm - 31.5 x 43.3 x 15.7 in.





Twenty First Century Atlas, 2017

Bronze, copper, electronic components and brass, original
65 x 37 x 37 cm - 25.6 x 14.6 x 14.6 in.



Predator against Predator Nickel, 2016

Bronze, edition of 8 + 4 AP
34 x 61 x 27 cm - 13.4 x 24 x 10.6 in.



BIOGRAPHY

Pierre Matter was born in 1964 in the Haut-Rhin, in Eastern France. He currently lives and works in the Loire Valley.

After a childhood that he describes as "mystical", he surprisingly undertook general studies in mathematics, but importantly continued to work on his artistic creations. He began experimenting with gouache and watercolour paints, however his unique techniques developed much later on. His initial path took him from working in agriculture, to the building trades, then subsequently as a comic book illustrator and then sculpting bas-reliefs in stone. This journey finally led him to where he is today - making his uniquely idiosyncratic, visionary sculpture in heavy metal.

Allying nature with technical civilisation, his mechanical-creatures express the overlap between nature and civilisation, reflecting the anxiety of a monstrosity that feels ever more possible. His works evoke the unyielding power and progress of modern technology and the unstoppable path that it may be placing us upon.

Pierre Matter is represented by Opera Gallery worldwide.

EXHIBITIONS

- 1997 Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France
Espace Paul Ricard, Bandol, France
Galerie Le Virage, Delemont, Switzerland
- 1998 Galerie Daune, Paris, France
- 1999 Aktuel Gallery, Germany
Conseil de l'Europe, Strasbourg, France
Canne's Gallery, France
- 2000 Maison de la Radio, Paris, France
Esch Theatre Gallery, Luxembourg
Opera Gallery, New York, USA
- 2001 Opera Gallery, Singapore
- 2002 Tokyu Bunkamura Gallery Museum, Tokyo, Japan
Japon Tenjin Salaria Event Space, Fukuoka, Japan
Plaza, Osaka, Japan
Loft Gallery Museum, Nagoya, Japan
Red Brick Warehouse Gallery, Yokohama, Japan
- 2003 Opera Gallery, New York, USA
- 2004 New Yorker Magazine, New York, USA
- 2005 Shanghai Sculpture Space, Shanghai, China

- 2006 Contemporary Art fair, Shanghai, China
Espace 110, Illzach, France
Contemporary Art fair, Shanghai, China
Opera Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2007 Annual Shanghai International Exhibition of Sculptures, Shanghai, China
Opera Gallery, Singapore
Museum of Contemporary Art, Shanghai, China
Imaginales, Épinal, France
Contemporary Art fair, Shanghai, China
- 2008 Opera Gallery, New York, USA
Gong Zhen - Sport in Art, Museum of Contemporary Art, Shanghai, China;
Museum of Ghanzhou Art Academy, Ghanzhou, China;
RCM the Museum of Modern Art, Nanjing, China;
Gallery of Luxun Art Academy, Shenyang, China;
Today Art Museum, Beijing, China
Contemporary Art fair, Shanghai, China
- 2009 Opera Gallery, Singapore
- 2010 St'Art, Strasbourg, France
- 2011 Opera Gallery, Dubai, UAE
Opera Gallery, Singapore
- 2012 Opera Gallery, Paris, France
Galerie Hugues Pénot, Pornichet, France
- 2013 AFA Gallery SoHo, New York, USA
Opera Gallery, Singapore
Galerie Clarus, Sologne, France
Château de Belcastel, Aveyron, France
La Boîte noire, Tours, France
L'Art au quotidien, Guest artist, Tours, France
- 2014 Opera Gallery - Longines Master Slam, Hong Kong
AFA Gallery Soho, New York, USA
Scope Basel - Galerie Mark Hachem, Basel, Switzerland
Opera Gallery, Singapore
- 2015 Château de Belcastel, Aveyron, France
Nov'Art 2015, Villevêque, France
STR'OFF, Strasbourg, France
- 2016 13th Biennale of Savonnières, France
47th Art Fair, Sainte-Maure-de-Touraine, France
AFA Gallery SoHo, New York, USA
- 2017 Grange aux Dîmes, Fondettes, France
Opera Gallery, Singapore



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