

LIFESTYLE / JEWELRY & WATCHES / ARTICLE

## Ai Weiwei Designs Wearable Artworks at Elisabetta Cipriani

BY NICHOLAS FORREST | SEPTEMBER 16, 2015



Ai Weiwei, Rebar in Gold (2013), 24kt gold bracelet, 60 cm long, Courtesy of Ai Weiwei Studio Ai Weiwei, Rebar in Gold (2013), 24kt gold bracelet, 20 cm long, Courtesy of Ai Weiwei Studio (Ai Weiwei, Rebar in Gold)

**RELATED**

**EVENTS**  
 Ai Weiwei: Rebar In Gold

**VENUES**  
 Elisabetta Cipriani

**ARTISTS**  
 Ai Weiwei

London-based Elisabetta Cipriani – Jewellery by Contemporary Artists has joined forces with renowned Chinese artist Ai Weiwei for its latest collection of wearable artworks which will be exhibited at Elisabetta Cipriani Gallery in Mayfair from November 12, 2015 until January 15, 2016.

Titled "Rebar in Gold," the stunning yet poignant collection takes as its point of departure Ai Weiwei's investigation into the devastating 2008 Sichuan earthquake which focused on exposing the truth surrounding the deaths of thousands of schoolchildren because of poor construction techniques.

Ai Weiwei visited Sichuan following the earthquake where he found and recovered 200 tonnes of mangled steel rebar from the collapsed school buildings. 96 tonnes of the rebar was meticulously straightened by hand for his celebrated installation "Straight (2008-12)."

His choice to execute the collection in gold, a material traditionally associated with eternity and wealth, directly contradicts the deaths caused by the shoddy building materials. According to Ai Weiwei, the collection serves as a delicate memorial to the lives lost in the earthquake.

"Rebar in Gold" comprises unique pieces of handcrafted gold rebar in three lengths; 60cm, 20cm and 10cm. Each of the flexible 24 karat pure gold bars is individually bent by the artist, creating the first form for the wearer who can then adjust it to fit his or her wrist, finger, or neck.

The collection will be showcased in a large-scale, purpose-built wooden structure housing two display cabinets that have been designed and custom-made by the artist himself from glass and huali, a wood used in traditional Chinese furniture.

Ai Weiwei, "Rebar in Gold" opens at Elisabetta Cipriani Gallery on November 11



**KEITH HARING**  
 THE BLUEPRINT DRAWINGS  
 Online Auction September 17-29

**Bid Now**

**CHRISTIE'S**  
 THE ART PEOPLE