

When design meets luxury: Lust over the most indulgent items in the world

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COURTESY OF HIRSH STUDIOS/ELISABETTA CIPRIANI GALLERY



10 photos:



Ai Weiwei x Elisabetta Cipriani – Contemporary art phenomenon and Chinese dissident Ai Weiwei proves once again that something beautiful can arise from tragedy. Inspired by the devastating 2008 earthquake in Wenchuan, Sichuan Province, China, Ai focused his attention on the poorly constructed buildings that collapsed in the quake, claiming the lives of thousands. Now working with wearable sculpture artist Elisabetta Cipriani, Ai has crafted a homage to the victims of the tragedy, casting miniature rebars in pure 24 karat gold, flexible and bent to adapt to the wrist or neck of the wearer.

"It's about commemoration and memory," he told the [New York Times](#). "I used gold because it's precious, and that's what life is — precious. If you wear this piece in the name of the memory of a life lost or your life ahead, that's what matters. It's all about respect for life."

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