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REBAR IN GOLD

AI WEIWEI'S SHOW AT ELISABETTA
CIPRIANI GALLERY IN LONDON



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY AI WEIWEI STUDIO
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World-renowned Chinese artist and activist, Ai Weiwei, has partnered up with Elisabetta Cipriani Gallery in London to showcase his latest work titled "Rebar in Gold." Unlike the large scale installations for which Weiwei is most well-known, the exhibit is particularly unique because everything in it is entirely wearable and crafted in 24-karat gold.

Weiwei was inspired to create the work after visiting China's Sichuan province shortly after 2008's devastating Wenchuan earthquake. Whilst there, he came across and purchased a 200 ton mass of damaged steel rebar, left behind by a collapsed school which claimed the lives of multiple pupils trapped inside. With the material, he constructed a body of work dedicated to the natural disaster, from which *Rebar in Gold* takes its name and twisted-shape on a much smaller scale. Weiwei bent each piece by hand and chose gold to symbolize wealth, eternity, and the unrivaled value of human life.

