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Ai Weiwei



Vases in Five Colours (Set of 5), 2024

Murano Glass

20,5 x 22 cm | 8.07 x 8.66 in

Certificate signed by the artist

Less than 40 compiled with matching numbers
out of the total edition of 100

Ai Weiwei



Vases in Black and White (Set of 2), 2024

Murano Glass

20,5 x 22 cm | 8.07 x 8.66 in

Certificate signed by the artist

Less than 20 compiled with matching numbers
out of the total edition of 100

Ai Weiwei



Vase (Mustard), 2024

Murano Glass

20,5 x 22 cm | 8.07 x 8.66 in

Certificate signed by the artist

Not more than 40 available

as a single out of the total edition of 100



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The Artist

Ai Weiwei (b. 1957, Beijing) is one of the most influential artists and provocateurs of our time. He is celebrated for blending Chinese history and tradition with artistic expression and political activism, all within a wholly contemporary practice. Beyond traditional mediums, his artistic work extends to architecture, documentary filmmaking, and large-scale public installations, each serving as a form of human rights activism, cultural commentary, and critiques of the global imbalance of power.

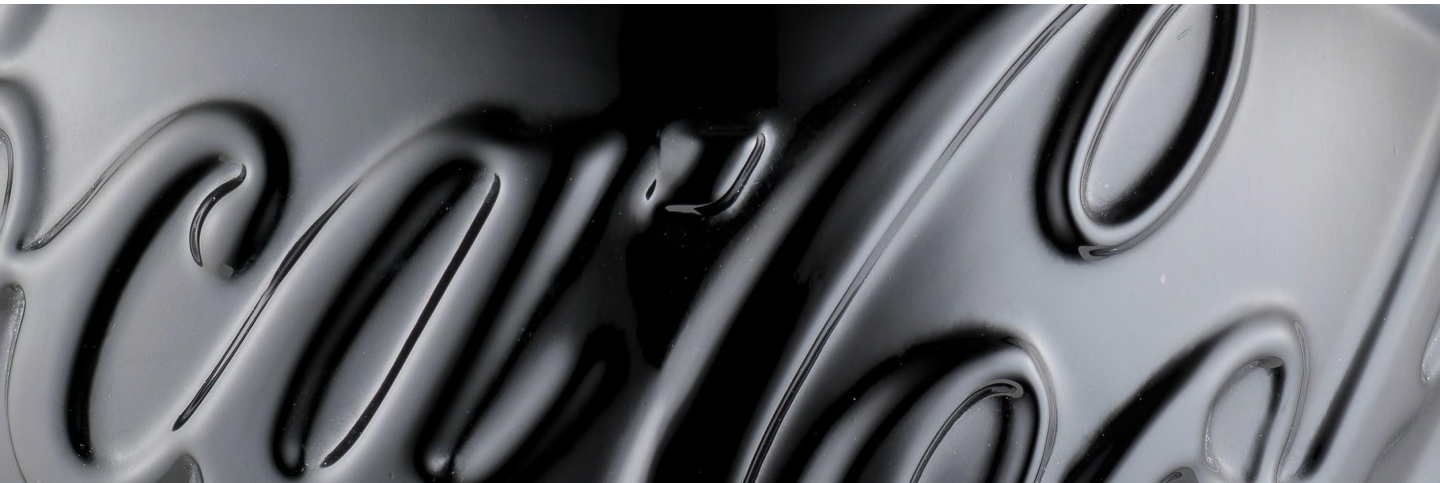
Born into exile due to his father's political persecution, Ai Weiwei's early life was marked by hardship, shaping his lifelong commitment to questioning authority. This commitment has often made him a political target in the past. He studied at the Beijing Film Academy before moving to New York in the 1980s, where he was influenced by conceptual art and artists such as Marcel Duchamp and Andy Warhol. Returning to China in the 1990s, Ai Weiwei emerged as a key figure in contemporary Chinese art while also co-founding independent art spaces and experimenting with radical forms of artistic expression. After years of surveillance and restrictions, he was eventually allowed to leave China in 2015 and has since lived in Germany, the United Kingdom, and Portugal.

Ai Weiwei gained international recognition through powerful works such as *Dropping a Han Dynasty Urn* (1995), *Sunflower Seeds* (2010), *Neolithic Vase with Coca Cola Logo* (Gold) (2015), *Illumination* (2019), and *Straight* (2008–2012), a poignant memorial to the victims of the 2008 Sichuan earthquake. Ai Weiwei's works are held in major museums worldwide and have been exhibited in leading institutions such as Tate Modern, the Royal Academy of Arts, and the Venice Biennale. His relentless pursuit of truth and justice, coupled with his innovative artistic vision, continues to inspire global audiences and redefine the role of art in society. As Ai Weiwei himself asserts, "Everything is art. Everything is politics."

The Artwork

Ai Weiwei's *Vases in Five Colours* (2024) continues the artist's long-standing interrogation of cultural identity, commercialisation, and artistic heritage. This series of five Murano glass vases—rendered in blue, green, mustard, black, and white—pays homage to traditional Chinese ceramics while embedding them within a globalised context. The vibrant hues reference ancient Chinese glazes, yet their sleek, translucent surfaces betray a contemporary sensibility. By employing Murano glass, a material deeply tied to Venetian craftsmanship, Ai Weiwei merges two artistic traditions, challenging notions of authenticity and ownership. The interplay between the artisanal and the mass-produced echoes his broader critique of cultural commodification and the impact of Western capitalism on Chinese heritage.

These vases are more than decorative objects; they are vessels of contradiction. The Coca-Cola emblem, a ubiquitous symbol of consumer culture, disrupts the historical reverence associated with ceramic traditions, much like Ai Weiwei's earlier works starting in 1994, where he painted the logo onto 2,000-year-old Han-dynasty urns. His works such as *Dropping a Han Dynasty Urn* (1995) and *Han Jar Overpainted with Coca-Cola Logo* (1995) are iconic examples of how he provocatively addresses China's historical confrontation with Western influences. Here, however, the medium itself shifts the conversation. The fragility of glass contrasts with the permanence of branding, suggesting both the resilience and vulnerability of cultural identity in an increasingly homogenized world.







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