

Long-Bin Chen

World Buddha Head Project, 2005

Recycled phone books

42 x 20 x 20 inches

\$14,000



This sculpture is made of a carved stack of Manhattan phone books. It is supported by a wooden base and interior armature.

In Buddhism, all sentient beings are regarded as having a “Buddha seed.” Buddhism teaches that when we die, the mind with all the many characteristics developed and conditioned in this life reestablishes itself in a fertilized egg. Similarly, the genes carried in DNA are passed on from generation to generation. In this work Chen explores the relationship between Buddhism and DNA structure. Using a helix-like tower of telephone books, which the artist regards as cultural debris emanating from our information society, this work reveals three sides, each sculpted with a face: Buddha, an animal, and a human. These images revolve around and into one another.