Work reviw

Title: Jade Bi, 2016

Size: 800cm in length and width, 600cm high

Material: ceramic, metal structure

For thousands of years,Chinesepeoplehave revered jade, and it has become associated with many symbolic and cultural values,including a mild and harmonious character. XuShen, a scholar of the Eastern Han Dynasty, who was deeply influenced by Confucian thought, statedthat "a gentleman's moral character is like the quality of jade." Xuproposed the five symbolic virtues of jade, namely benevolence, integrity, wisdom, courage and purity, arerepresented by its warmth, cohesion, endurance, strength and clarity.

The 'Jade Bi Disc' was createdfrom 2500 coarse, inexpensive medicinal cauldrons. These raku-fired wares were manufactured and fired in underground kilns in Yuzhou. bythe Hou family of skilled artisans who specialize exclusively in this form. Huang Ke's disc shape references the popular Chinese passion for jade, but the multitude of clay vessels indicate that the sculpture is a metaphor for transformation. The artistsuggests a need for the symbolic transformation of the moral, cultural and spiritual values of jade. On a more personal level, Huang Ke indicated that this work may have the capacity to transform his humble career as a ceramics artist. Most importantly however, the artisthopes that popular perceptions of ceramics will be transformed, and clay will

be valued as a precious commodity, with the same moral, spiritual and cultural qualities of jade.

The cauldrons of HunagKe's disc are inclined at an angle that will permit them to catch the rain, snow, whistle and sing in the wind. The open vesselsthus dialogue with both mankind and the elements. In the future, the sculpture may undergo another transformation, and become a green sculpture, containing a variety of plants. In this ultimate transformation, these humble medicinal crucibles will inject new life into a public space.