

ART REPUBLIK EXPLORES THE WORKS OF FRENCH  
SCULPTOR MAURO CORDA. BY MELODY BOH

# The Human Condition



French sculptor Mauro Corda is fixated on the human body – most of his works center on the portrayal of human being in all kinds of roles, environments and situations. Whether they are cast in bronze, carved in marble or molded from ceramics, Corda creates works of torsos, faces, busts, as well as full individuals. This fascination perhaps stems from Corda's 'quest for the ideal', one he has embarked on since he was a teenager.

At the tender age of 16, Corda enrolled himself in the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Reims, France, and went on to the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, graduating with a fine arts degree. After spending two years working in Barcelona at the Casa Velasquez, the artist had his first show in 1989, at the Galerie Marie-Laure Leduc in Paris.

A permanent artist of Marc Hachem galleries in New York, Paris and Beirut, Corda is a vehement believer of technique and classical art training. Corda expresses, "If a person works hard at art, he becomes an artist. In our times, artists can be created much easier but the education of artists doesn't exist at the level it's supposed to be at." True to

his conviction, Corda's works are immaculately executed. He creates sculptures in a myriad of mediums and uses the most diverse patinas and applies chrome, silver, gilding and paint to his works, investigating the vivid potential of all kinds of colours and materials.

In his exploration of the human body and roles in his works, Corda masterfully removes the identity and psychology of the characters through the use of different materials. This is conveyed in his works 'AFRIQUE', 'EUROPE' and 'ASIA', three seemingly similar white ceramic busts that strip colour and gender off the personas, leaving viewers to contemplate the perceived differences, or likeness, between all human beings.

With such diversity in textures, shapes and materials in Corda's art, all of which are subtle in their delivery but loud in their messages, Mauro Corda is truly an artist to behold. 

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