

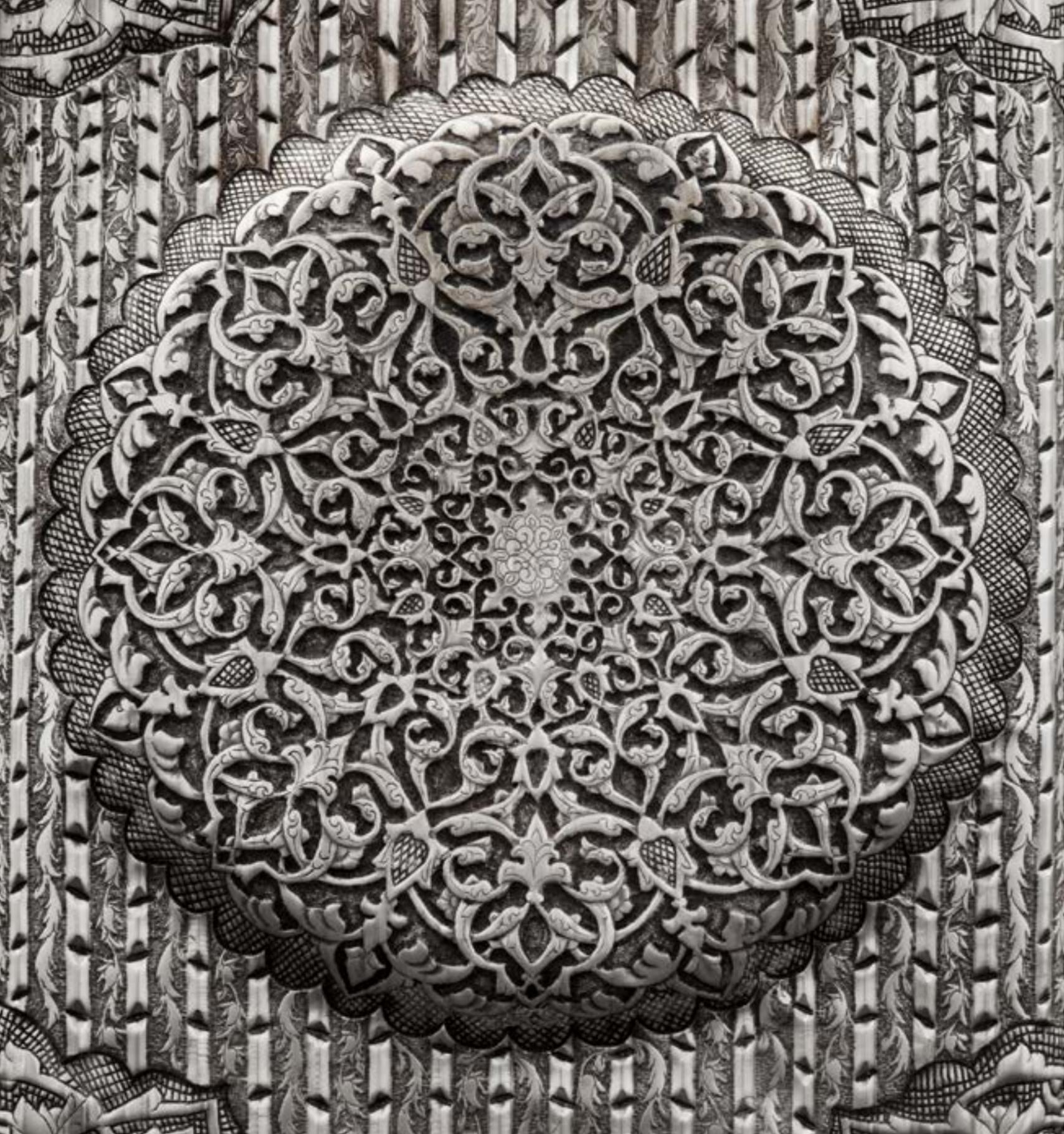


WIM DELVOYE

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LEILA HELLER GALLERY.

Leila Heller Gallery  
1-87, Alserkal Avenue  
Al Quoz 1, Dubai, UAE  
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## An Artist's Journey: The Sculptures of Wim Delvoye

By Shiva Balaghi, Ph.D.

Delvoye's art at once upends the narrow strictures of the art world, while extending the possibilities of what a work of art can represent. His art is a fusion of deeply philosophical ideas, an experimental approach to the use of materials, and a deep immersion in the techniques of craftsmanship. The neo-conceptual artist brings together elements across time and space to create artworks that are at once shocking and stunningly beautiful.

As he travels across Europe, the U.S., Asia and the Middle East, Delvoye immerses himself in various local cultures. *"I don't feel I belong anywhere,"* he explains in an interview. *"I feel like a nomad. So I take inspiration from different cultures, whilst being very respectful of the places I go to."*

Whether working with local craftsmen in Yunnan or Isfahan, Delvoye's artistic approach has an ethnographic bent. He describes it as a form of multi-layered appropriation art, always beginning with an idea – then the materiality and design are built on a physical manifestation of that original idea. The process of making his art becomes a fusion of materials and themes. Speaking from his studio in Ghent, Delvoye explains his art stems from "a strange mix of my own personal life and larger geopolitical perspectives."

Though his sculptures appear fluid and organic, his is a deeply studied approach. Delvoye seems to understand what each metal can give him: steel, bronze, brass...all have their own characteristics, which affect the way he uses the material in his sculptures. He then works that material using precise mathematical equations applied to techniques gleaned from craftsmen to produce intricate, complex sculptural pieces that are a mix of the traditional and the contemporary, implementing a global aspect that can not be easily categorized.

So that traditional wood craft ornament is recast into tires embellished with beautifully detailed carvings. Traditional Islamic ornamentation is recast onto metal suitcases adorned with beautiful carvings inspired by Persian metalwork. The high art of gothic architecture merges with the ordinary in scale models of industrial machinery like concrete mixers. Applying computerized modern technology to traditional crafts, he produces beautiful objects that push the boundaries of the expected. In the process, Delvoye extends the very meaning of art itself.

Born in 1965 Belgium, Wim Delvoye currently lives and works in Ghent, Belgium and Brighton, UK. His art has been the subject of numerous solo exhibitions in such international museums as Centre Pompidou in Paris, the Louvre Museum in Paris, the Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts in Moscow, the Heydar Aliyev Center in Baku, the New Museum in NYC, and the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice. Delvoye's art is represented in major public collections worldwide. His work has been included in major group exhibitions such as Venice Biennale, Documenta IX, Sydney Biennale, Lyon Biennial, and Shanghai Biennale.









<<< Wim Delvoye au Louvre, 2012, Paris  
<< Wim Delvoye, Galerie Emmanuel Perrotin, 2013, Paris  
< Wim Delvoye, MONA, 2010, Hobart

**Untitled**, 2007  
handcarved tyre  
81.5 × 81.5 × 19 cm



**Untitled**, 2007  
handcarved tyre  
81.5 × 81.5 × 19 cm



**Untitled**, 2007  
handcarved tyre  
81.5 × 81.5 × 19 cm





<< *Wim Delvoye*, Heydar Aliyev Center, 2015, Baku  
< *Wim Delvoye*, Galerie Emmanuel Perrotin, 2013, Paris

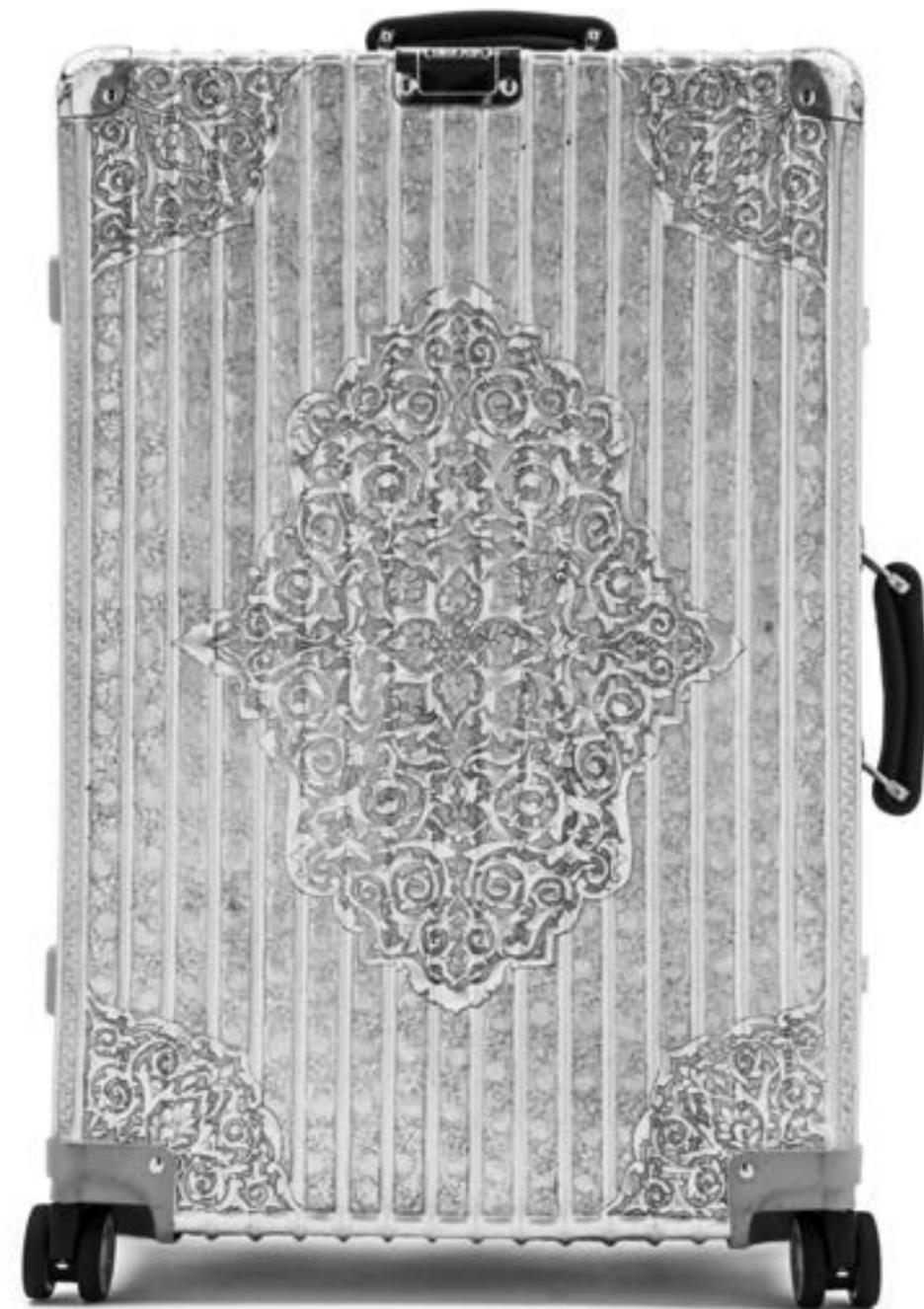
**Rimowa Classic Flight Multiwheel 971.63.00.4**, 2014  
embossed aluminium suitcase  
71 × 47 × 25.5 cm



**Rimowa Classic Flight Multiwheel 971.63.00.4, 2014**  
embossed aluminium suitcase  
71 × 47 × 25.5 cm



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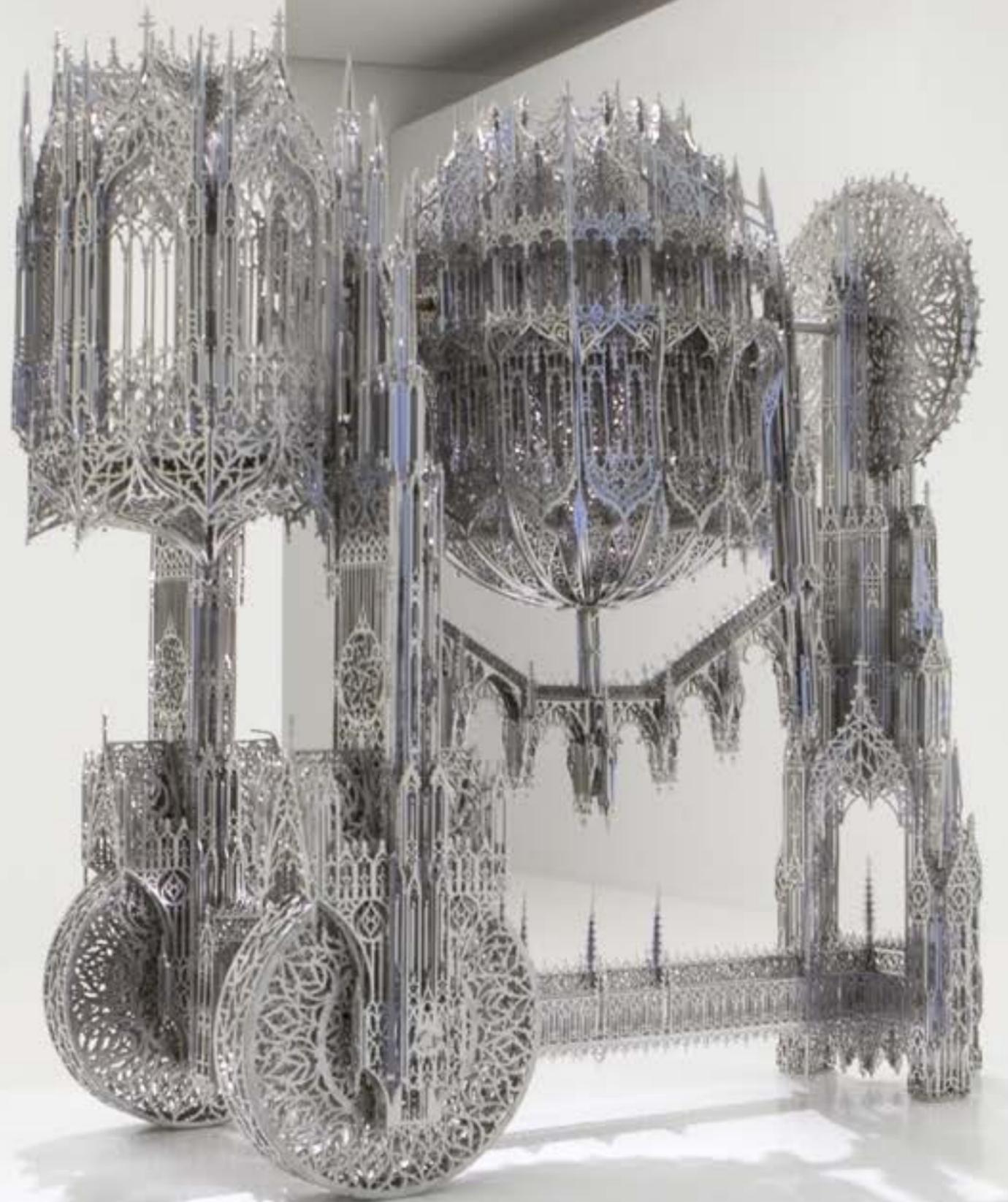
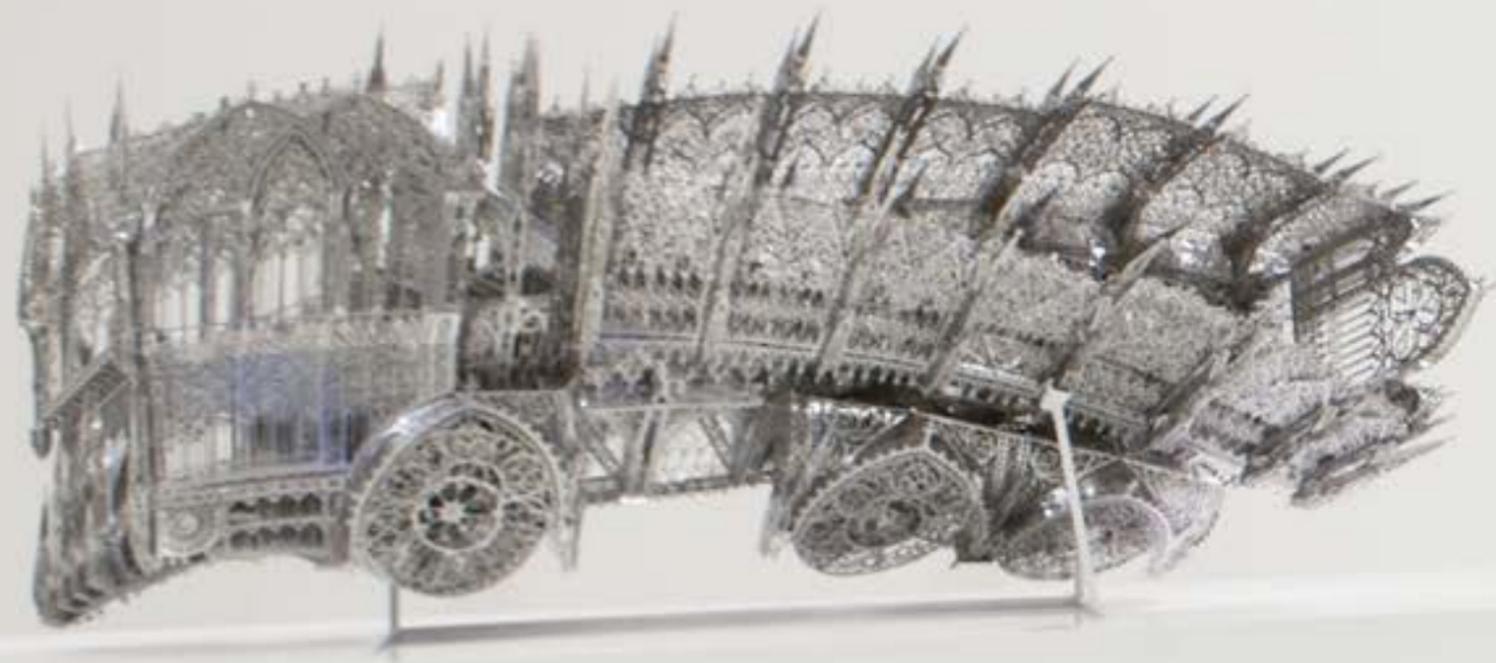




<< *Knocking on Heaven's Door*, Bozar, 2010, Brussels  
< *Mimicry*, Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts, 2014, Moscow

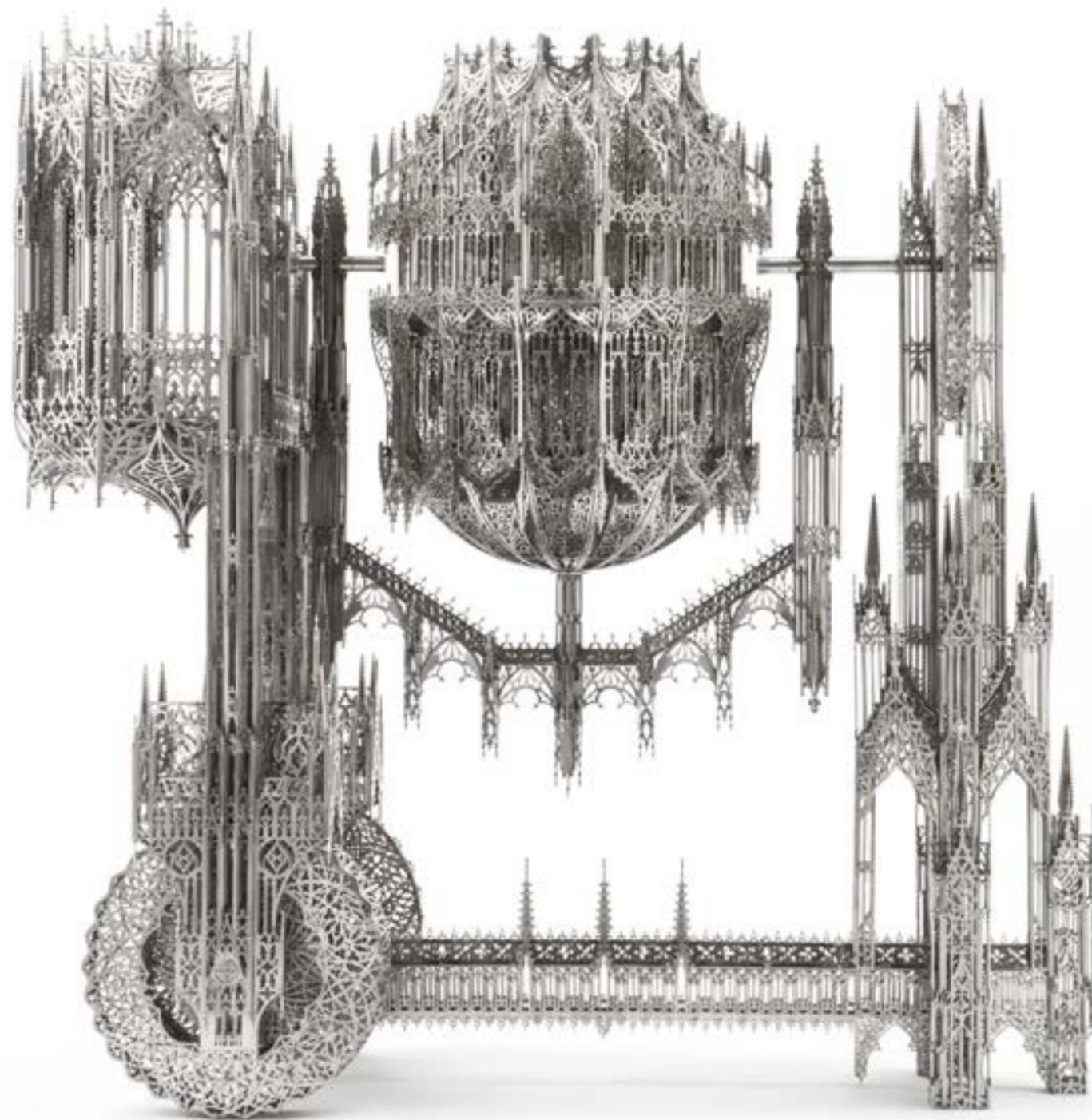
**Daphnis & Chloë (Counterclockwise)**, 2009  
polished bronze  
165 × 85 × 85 cm





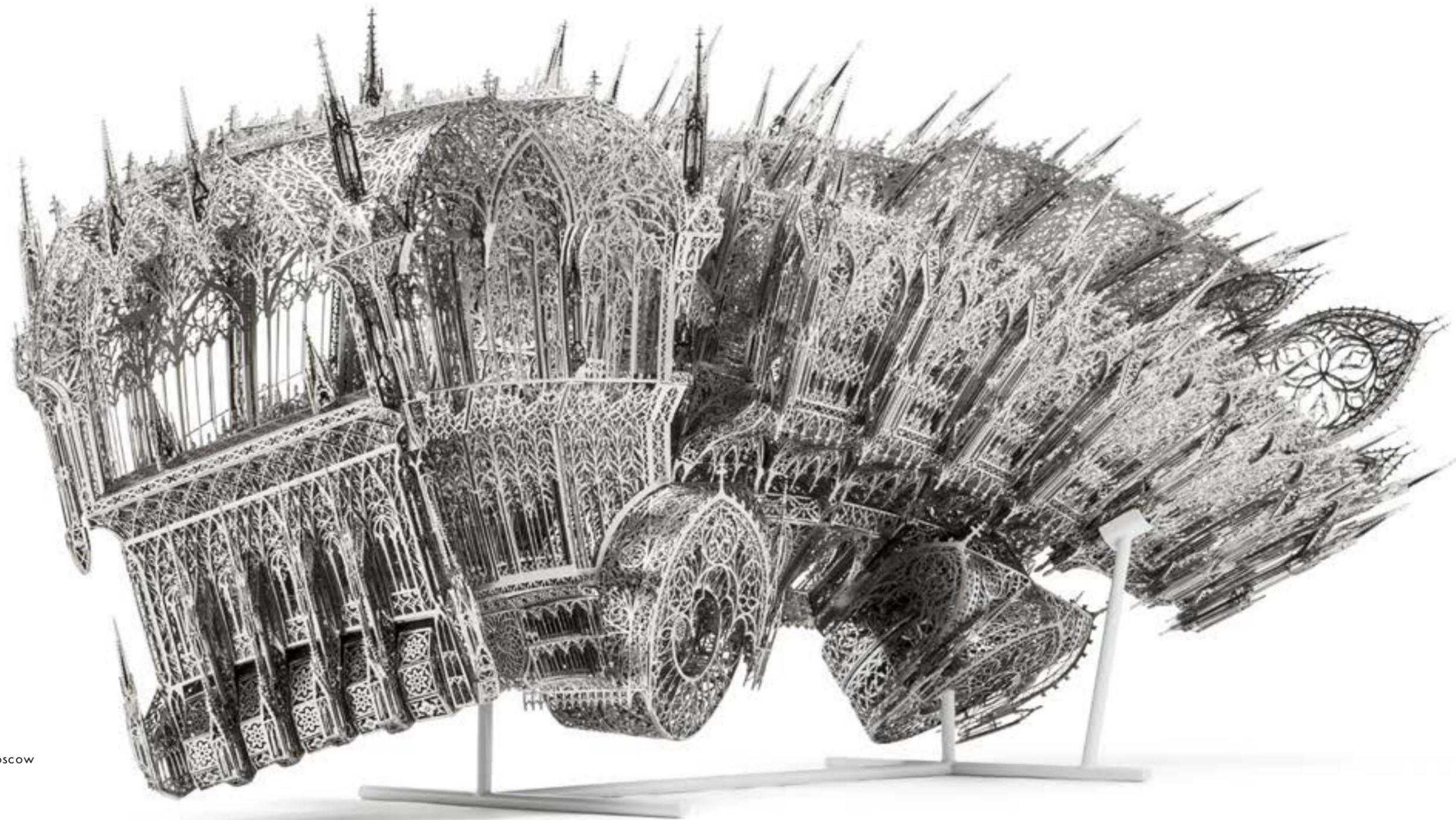
<< *Wim Delvoye*, Heydar Aliyev Center, 2015, Baku

**Concrete Mixer**, 2010  
laser-cut stainless steel  
105 × 84.5 × 45 cm









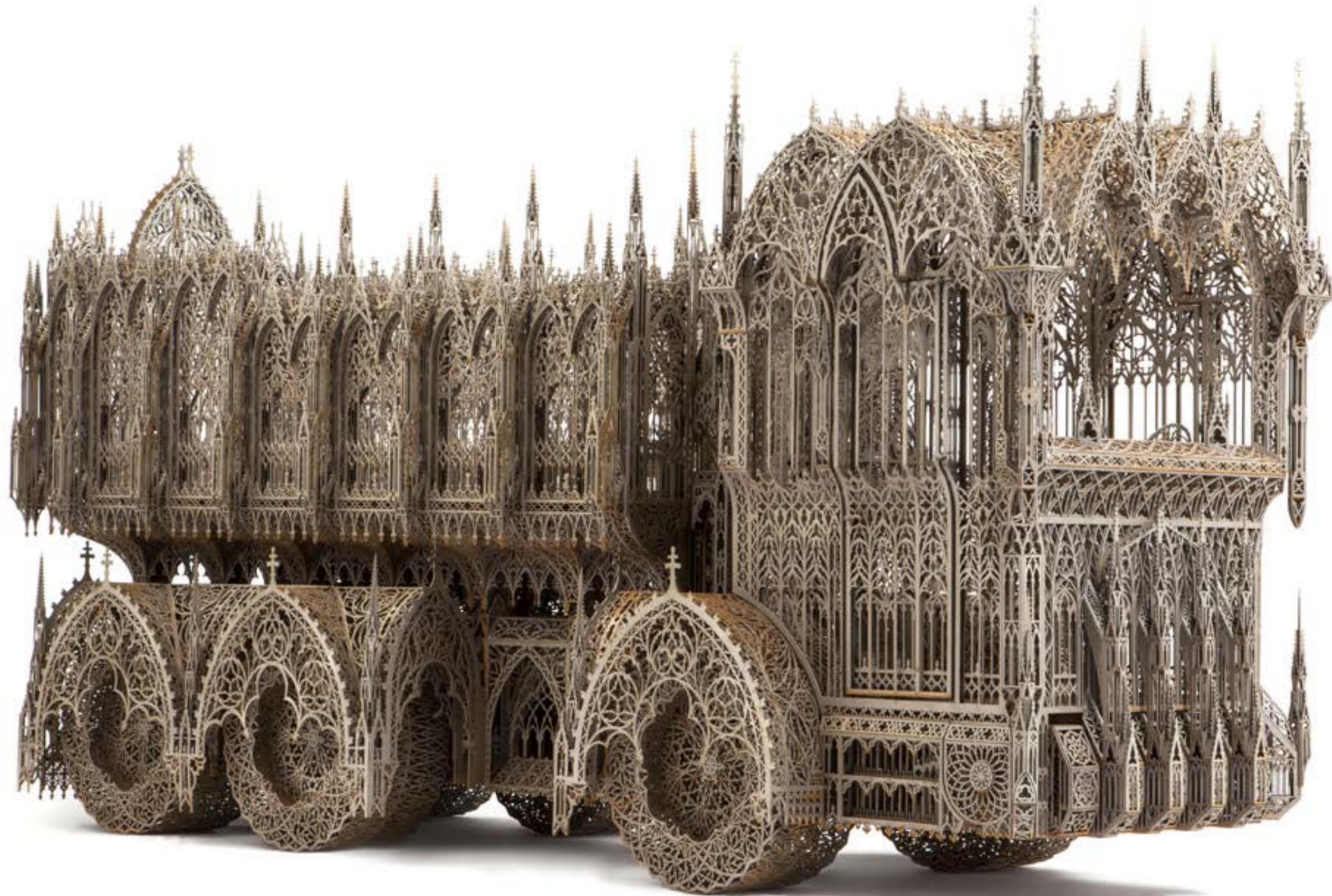
<< *Wim Delvoye au Louvre*, 2012, Paris

< *Mimicry*, Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts, 2014, Moscow

**Twisted Dump Truck (Counterclockwise)**, 2013

laser-cut stainless steel

127 × 55 × 64 cm



**Dump Truck**, 2013  
laser-cut Corten steel  
214 × 74 × 110 cm











<<< *Wim Delvoye*, *MONA*, 2010, Hobart  
<< *Wim Delvoye*, *Chiesa di San Cristoforo*, 2013, Lucca  
< *Wim Delvoye*, *Sperone Westwater*, 2013, New York

**Suppo (Clockwise)**, 2012  
laser-cut stainless steel  
330 × 33 × 33 cm

## WIM DELVOYE – SELECTED BIOGRAPHY

Wim Delvoye (Wervik, 1965) lives and works in Ghent (BE) and Brighton (UK).

### Solo Exhibitions

- 1991 *Sonnabend Gallery*, New York  
*Castello di Rivoli*, Rivoli, Torino
- 1992 *Sonnabend Gallery*, New York
- 1997 *Open Air Museum Middelheim*, Antwerp
- 1998 *Sonnabend Gallery*, New York
- 2000 “*Cement Truck*”, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris  
“*CLOACA*”, MuHKA, Antwerp
- 2001 *Cloaca – New and Improved*, Migros Museum, Zürich
- 2002 *Cloaca – New and Improved*, New Museum, New York  
*Marble Floors*, Sperone Westwater, New York  
*Gothic Works*, Manchester City Art Galleries, Manchester  
*Gothic Works*, Sperone Westwater, New York
- 2003 Musée d'Art Contemporain, Lyon  
*Gothic*, Public Art Fund Project, New York  
*Fabrica*, C-Arte, Prato
- 2004 *Cloaca – New & Improved*, The Power Plant, Toronto  
*Oeuvres sur papier 1968 – 2004*, Galerie Nathalie Obadia, Paris
- 2005 *Scale Models & Drawings*, Sperone Westwater, New York
- 2006 *Cloaca N° 5*, Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts, Kaohsiung (Taiwan)
- 2007 Galerie Emmanuel Perrotin, Paris  
*Cloaca Quattro*, Xin Beijing Gallery, Beijing  
Wim Delvoye: *Cloaca 2000 - 2007*, Casino Luxembourg, Luxembourg
- 2008 *Wim Delvoye*, Ernst Museum (Mucsarnok Nkft), Budapest (HU)  
*Wim Delvoye*, Diehl + Gallery One, Moscow (RU)  
*Wim Delvoye*, Galerie Rodolphe Janssen, Brussels (BE)
- 2009 *Wim Delvoye: Torre*, Guggenheim Collection, Venice (IT)
- 2010 *Wim Delvoye: Dessins & Maquettes*, MAMAC Nice (FR)  
*Wim Delvoye*, Musée Rodin, Paris (FR)  
*Knocking on Heaven's Door*, BOZAR, Brussels (BE)
- 2011 *Wim Delvoye*, Galerie Urs Meile, Beijing (CN)  
*Wim Delvoye*, MONA, Hobart (AU)  
*Wim Delvoye*, Robilant + di Voena, London (UK)
- 2012 *Wim Delvoye au Louvre*, Musée du Louvre, Paris (FR)  
*Wim Delvoye*, Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney (AUS)  
*Wim Delvoye*, Galerie Perrotin, Paris (FR)
- 2013 *Art Dubai, 2013*  
*Wim Delvoye*, Galerie Perrotin, Hong Kong (HK)  
*Wim Delvoye*, Sperone Westwater, New York (USA)
- 2014 *Mimicry: Wim Delvoye at the Pushkin State Museum*, Moscow (RU)  
*Wim Delvoye*, Gary Tatintsian Gallery, Moscow (RU)  
Galerie Perrotin, Paris (FR)
- 2015 *Wim Delvoye*, Heydar Aliyev Center, Baku (AZ)  
*Wim Delvoye*, Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai (UAE)
- 2016 *Wim Delvoye*, Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, Iran  
*Wim Delvoye*, Mudam, Luxembourg (LUX)

## Group Exhibitions

- 1992 *Documenta IX*, Kassel  
9th Biennial of Sydney, Sydney  
*Post-Human*, FAE Musée d'Art Contemporain, Lausanne / Castelo di Rivoli, Rivoli / Deste Fondation, Athens
- 1993 *Post-Human*, Deichtorhallen, Hamburg and The Israel Museum, Jerusalem
- 1995 *ARS 95*, Nykytäiteen Museo, Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki
- 1996 *Everything that's interesting is new / The Dakis Joannou Collection*, Athens School of Fine Arts, Athens
- 1997 *Kwangju Biennale*, Kwangju, South-Korea.
- 1998 *L' Envers du Décor*, Musée d'Art moderne Villeneuve d'Asq, Villeneuve d' Asq (France)
- 1999 *48th Biennale di Venezia*, d' APERTutto, Venice
- 2000 *Over the Edges*, SMAK, Ghent
- 2001 *Give and Take*, Victoria and Albert Museum, London  
*Eine Barocke Party*, Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna  
*Irony*, Fundação Mirò, Barcelona  
*Sense of Wonder*, Herzliya Museum of Art, Herzliya (Israel)
- 2002 *Melodrama*, Artium, Vitoria-Gasteiz (Spain)  
*La Part de l'Autre*, Carré d'Art Nîmes, Nîmes (France)  
*From Pop to Now*, Tang Teaching Museum, New York
- 2003 *Extra*, Swiss Institute, New York  
*GNS*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris
- 2004 *Hors d'Oeuvres*, CAPC Musée de Bordeaux, Bordeaux
- 2005 *Visionary Belgium*, Bozar, Brussels  
*Biennale d'Art Contemporain*, Lyon  
*Two Asias/Two Europes*, Duolun Museum, Shanghai
- 2006 *Fiction@Love*, Moca Shanghai, Shanghai  
*Into Me/Out of Me*, PS1, New York (USA)  
*Eldorado*, Mudam, Luxemburg
- 2007 *Into Me/Out of Me*, MACRO, Rome  
*Intersezione III*, Parco Archeologico di Scolacium, Catanzaro  
*I am as You will be*, Cheim & Read, New York  
*Guesthouse 2007*, Mudam Luxembourg
- 2008 *Sk-Interfaces*, FACT, Liverpool (UK)  
*Comme des Bêtes*, Musée des Beaux Arts, Lausanne (CH)  
*Ad Absurdum*, MARTa, Herford (DE)  
*Umedalen Skulptur*, Umedalen Skulpture Park, Umedalen (SE)  
*Less is less, more is more, that's all*, CAPC Bordeaux, Bordeaux (France)  
*Close Up*, The Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh (UK)  
*Take me there, Show me the Way*, Haunch of Venison, New York (USA)
- 2009 *Mythologies*, Haunch of Venison, London (UK)  
*The Endless Renaissance*, Bass Museum of Art, Miami (USA)  
*Colossal – Kunst Fakt Fiktion*, Kalkriese (DE)  
*3rd Moscow Biennial*, Moscow (RU)
- 2010 *The State of Things. Contemporary Art of China & Belgium*, Bozar Brussels (BE) & NAMOC, Beijing (CN)  
*Visceral Bodies*, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver (CAN)
- 2012 *Babel*, Palais des Beaux-Arts, Lille (FR)  
*Jing'an International Sculpture Park 2012*, Jing'an, China (CN)  
*ArtJog 2012*, Yogyakarta (ID)
- 2013 *Out of Hand*, Museum of Art & Design, New York (USA)
- 2014 *Sailing into the Sea of Oblivion – Yokohama Triennale 2014*, Yokohama (JP)  
*JISP 2014 – Jing'An Biennial*, Jing' An Sculpture Park, Shanghai (CN)  
*Late Harvest*, Nevada Museum of Art, Reno (USA)
- 2015 *Art & Foods – Triennale di Milano*, Milan (IT)  
*Mythos Schönheit*, Upper Austria State Museum, Linz (AT)

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## Wim Delvoye

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[www.wimdelvoye.be](http://www.wimdelvoye.be)  
[info@cloaca.be](mailto:info@cloaca.be)

