

sculpted ai weiwei by he xiangyu lies face down on the ground

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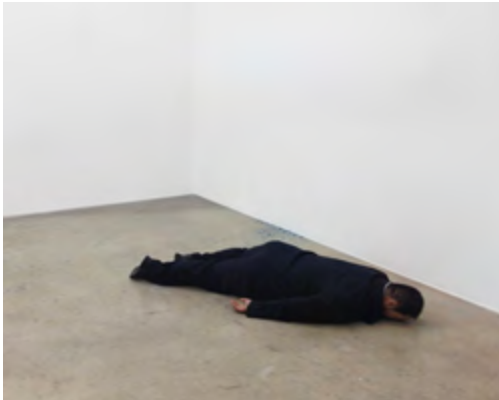
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the death of marat, 2011

fiberglass, silicone, fabric, human hair and leather

image © designboom

imbued with social and cultural undercurrents, chinese artist he xiangyu has created a fiberglass of ai weiwei, curiously positioned in a contorted posture lying face down on ground. the sculpture 'death of marat' refers to jacques-louis david's 18th century portrait of the french revolutionary leader napoleon in a bath. reflecting the political persecution of progressive, sometimes rebellious journalists, artists, and life-sized work acts as a materialization of the renowned artist's tax evasion case of 2012. in the piece, the suit worn by people's representatives during people's congress meetings. it simultaneously alludes to the entrapped, imprisoned circumstances as his status as an international art idol, revealing the individual's position as the speculative relationship between fate and the power structure. he xiangyu's floor-bound figure was featured at the [rubell family collection](#), for the exhibition '28 chinese' until august 1st, 2014, a group of contemporary asian art whose opening coincided with this year's [art basel miami beach](#).



fiberglass ai weiwei lies face down on the ground  
image courtesy of [art stage singapore](#)

**nina azzarello | designboom**



the lifeless positioning reflects the artist's political persecution  
image © designboom

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JUST PUBLISHED



'the death of marat' sits on the gallery floor  
image © designboom



detail of the sculpture's face

image © designboom



an observer looks at the contorted human figure on the floor  
image © designboom