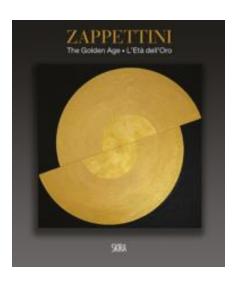
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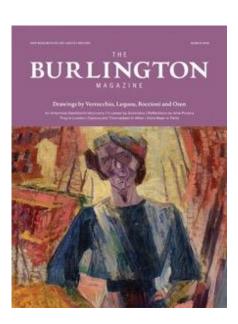
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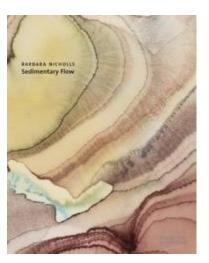
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Up, up Ai Weiwei

EXHIBITION REVIEW / Martin Holman

All West is now described as the world's most famous living artist. Alliform round the globe have followed by more former or the property of t

instead, he uses objects that already exist
in the world, reimagines them and makes
them new in some way.
At first, his pleasure in recycling arte-
facts seems puzzling and unnecessor-
by repetitive. For instance, why do Han
dynasty vases, dating from the second
century AD, in modern car paint? Coated
with a dull monochrome sheer, the an-
tiques reemerge as sleek, generic and
new, their long history enadicated.
And that is the point. Ai transforms
familiar forms and remodels their signifi-
cance. In the transition, he injects them
with fer reaching and often moving new
connections. For Ai Welwei is a disciple of
Marcel Duchamp, the frenchman who in-
troduced the ready-made as a legitimate
medium for artists.
Whether humble or historic, these
objects become instruments in the art-
ist's epic and dignified struggle with the
authoritarian posicies of China's repres-
sive régime. Apparent acts of cultural
vandalism tripper searching thoughts.
often about how new destroys the old in
the race for propers and modernity. In
this was Ai down the imagination onto
the metaphorical plane where his work
thrives. Indeed, Iring at the root of Ai's
strategies is his obsession with contern-
porary China. Official disregard for the
country's traditions have resulted in his

"Al's art cannot be separated from his activism, which now has global reach."

disconnection of the control of the

Unestablished in Program of the Control of the Cont

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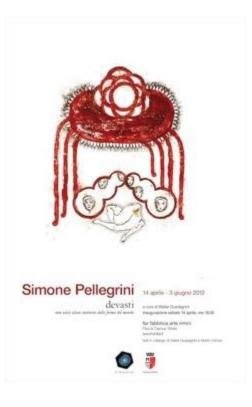
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