



**B**eijing-based sculptor Cai Zhisong is a star of the contemporary Chinese art world. From his first signature series, *Motherland* – male nudes cast in reinforced resin, copperplate and wire – through lead roses and now gigantic floating clouds, Cai has caught the imagination of international collectors. He has held 11 solo international exhibitions, most recently at the Singapore Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), and in 2005 and 2006 his works sold at Sotheby's Hong Kong for record prices for a mainland sculptor. Last year, his *Cloud* series broke records at Poly Auction sales. He will stage a large-scale solo exhibition in the Taipei Fine Arts Museum at end of the year.

Born in Shenyang in 1972, Cai speaks of a troubled childhood in which he found solace in his quest to become a successful artist. He worked hard at school and was accepted to study in the sculpture department at the prestigious Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing. He gained his first degree there in 1997, got his postgraduate diploma four years later and taught at the graduate school until 2008.

Cai's sculptures are lauded for their great technical skill and inventiveness. The early *Motherland* series show timeless beauty and attention to detail, such as intricate



Venice Cloud at the Venice Biennale 2011

