

The History of the Future

2011

Carved wooden phaser rifle. Jackfruit wood.
80 x 25 x 15 cm.

Silicon mold. White silicon in clear acrylic casing. 100 x 35 x 20 cm.

Safe with electronic time-release mechanism & digital counter.
35 x 25 x 20 cm.

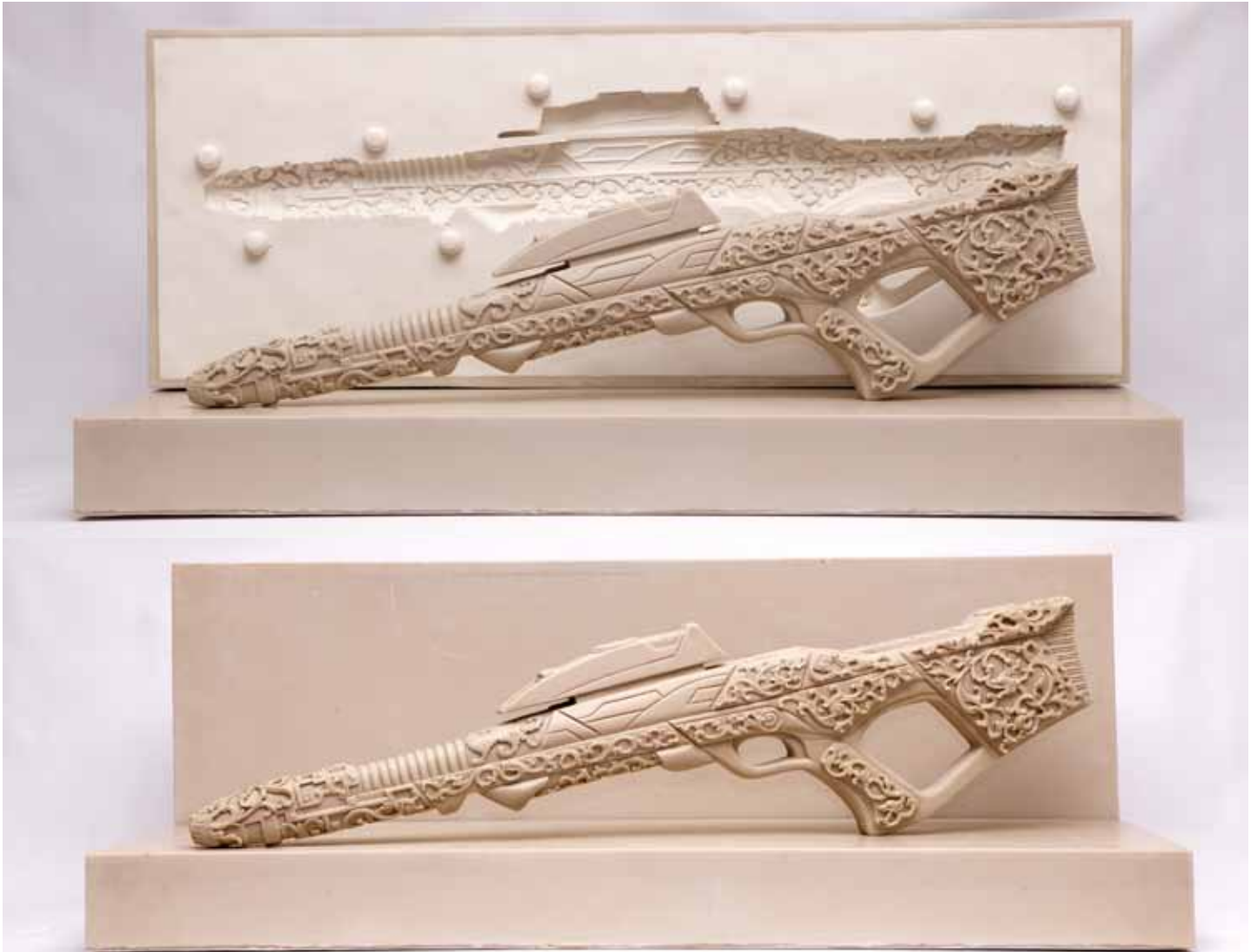
Single channel video.
07:35 min. 1920 x 1080. 25p. Color. Stereo.

Short Description:

This 3-part project consists of a unique science-fiction phaser rifle intricately carved in a tradition that dates back to the 16th century in South-east Asia. It is then hidden from human civilization somewhere in the world only to be revealed 100 years later.

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This project begins with a wooden sculpture of a phaser rifle appropriated from the Star Trek television/film series. It is carved by hand with intricate floral patterns used in old Vietnamese carving traditions that date back several hundred years giving the imagined science fiction weapon a more “alien” feel; something not of this world in both the historical sense and the science fiction sense. In a sense, it combines both the past and the future into one object. The carving, based on found diagrams of the phaser rifle, is made slightly bigger than the human-sized prop giving the object a slightly skewed, larger-than-life scale.

This one-of-a-kind hand-carved sculpture is then used to create an intricate two-part mold, the exact fit contours the negative space of the wood carving. This two-part mold is shown in the gallery space along with an accompanying short film.

This short film is a series of packshots or product shots of the sculptural object, inter-cut with a short documentary narrative of the artists’ journey to an unknown location to bury the sculpture, to be hidden from society like a time-capsule. This unknown location may be a construction area, forest, swamp, or the bottom of the large body of water like a river, lake, or ocean. The GPS coordinates will be recorded and kept secret for 100 years*.

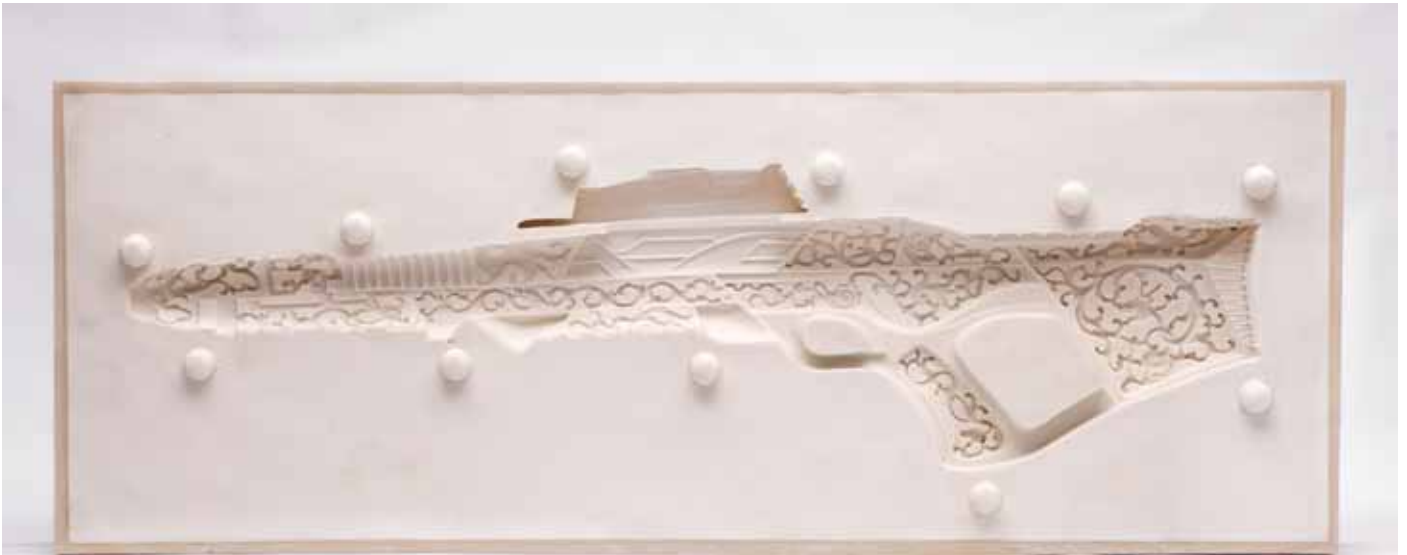
The GPS coordinates are kept in a steel safe rigged with a time-release mechanism, attached to a digital counter, counting down from 100 years, only to be unlocked when the counter reaches zero.

The above video clip is a combination of segments of the pack shot of the original carved phaser rifle.

*The only real law concerning the definition of the word antique comes from the US customs office, that considers antique as anything 100 years old.



Original phaser gun prop from sci-fi television/movie series.



Detail of 2-part silicon mold.



Details of carved wooden phaser rifle.



Production image of safe in progress of attaching timer and other electronic parts.