

**THESE PAGES**

Envy, 2008–12, in Belgian black marble (above), and Pakistani onyx (opposite), 55.9 cm (22 in.) high

'I employ a varied armamentarium of technological tools to create sculptures that are completely different to those made by my historical forebears to push my art in directions that would not otherwise be possible.

BARRY X BALL

BREATHING LIFE INTO PORTRAITS OF STONE

In his endeavours to present a new type of sculptural portraiture, artist Barry X Ball celebrates the artisanship of sculptors from antiquity, while creating something equally revolutionary through the application of advanced digital technologies to the making of each of his works.

For *Envy* (these pages) and *Purity* (overleaf), Ball took as his starting point two sculptures from the permanent collection of Ca' Rezzonico in Venice: *Invidia* (c. 1670), by Giusto Le Court, and *Purità* (c. 1720–5), by Antonio Corradini. Beginning by 3D-scanning the marble busts to create a detailed mesh of data, he then re-sculpted the digital model, refining the unresolved details of the originals and rebuilding areas of historic damage, as well as making subtle changes to enhance their impact. Unlike their predecessors, Ball's works are created to be viewed from all angles, so the details front and back were perfected accordingly.

Once the digital models were complete, a series of the busts were carved from a variety of carefully selected, non-traditional stones. Ball used sophisticated CNC machines to start with, enabling the stone to be milled accurately from a variety of angles. The carving process was then finished with extensive hand-detailing and selective polishing, which took up to two thousand hours for each sculpture. Most of the completed sculptures are mirror images of their historical inspirations—a common feature of Ball's work—a reference to the fact that each is a reinterpretation, or 'reflection' of its source.

LOCATION NEW YORK, USA **PROJECT** *ENVY* (2008–12) AND *PURITY* (2008–13)
TECHNIQUES 3D-SCANNING, 3D-MODELLING SOFTWARE, CNC LATHE, HAND-POLISHING **MATERIALS** VARIOUS STONES **WEBSITE** BARRYXBALL.COM