

“Love of money is the root of all evil...”

Born in London in 1974, Alexander de Cadenet works in the media of photography, painting and sculpture. With a practice that draws inspiration from historical portraiture, spiritualism and symbolism, his work explores sacred traditions through a contemporary perspective.

The artist completed his BA at Courtauld Institute of Art, London in 1996. His exhibitions include Victoria & Albert Museum, (London), Courtauld Institute of Art, (London), Tate Britain (London) and Gallery Marino (Rome).

In 2016, following a life changing meeting with spiritual teacher Eckhart Tolle, he set up the *Awakened Artists*, a group of artists whose work explores raising consciousness.
www.awakenedartists.com

He is also the Arts Editor to *Watkins Magazine* interviewing spiritual teachers and artists about their work. Articles can be seen on <https://www.awakenedartists.com/blog-articles>

Philosopher Edward Lucie-Smith has written, “The ‘Life Burger’ sculptures combine two opposing functions: they offer a sharp critique of the society we live in, and yet simultaneously they are luxury objects in their own right.” In 2018, *Trump Burger*, a scathing satire of the modern day Midas, was reportedly sold for £30,000 to a collector.

On a balmy summer evening in Walton Street we caught up with Alexander de Cadenet, socially distanced of course. Conducted via Whatsapp, the artist, a resident of both LA and London, was his usually upbeat and affable self. As distance became all but a concept, the boundary of digital screen between interviewer and interviewee melting away, his namesake and our Head of Digital Alex Yellop discussed his works, life and the freedoms that art gives.

His works, particularly in these series of sculptures, beautifully attempt to place the human experience both within the abstracts of the universe and the excesses of modern society. In *Meteorite Egg* the eternal, unfaltering movements of the heavens play out in front of our very eyes, tamed by humanity and cast into a symbol of new beginnings, the creative process and rebirth.

“For de Cadenet, the fact that the meteorite may have travelled to earth from countless light years away is a sacred contemplation. It connects him to a sense of awe into which he invites his viewers.”
Patrick Howe

Likewise in the series *Life Burgers* lavish symbols of success, power and wealth are presented as transient, excessive and throwaway. A buffet for billionaires. A sterile feast for the ego to the detriment of the higher self. Each work both a critique and a celebration once more reflecting the diametric nature of the human condition.

A celebration of existence while simultaneously questioning the value of worldly endeavour.”
- Tarnya Cooper, Chief Curator of the National Portrait Gallery

“I aim for my works to offer both a short and long term relationship for the viewer to enjoy. I try to create pieces that one can come back to at varying times and that their meaning will shift depending

on where the viewer is in their life. It is intended that over time deeper meanings behind the works may become apparent.”

His *Life Burgers* series of sculptures examine the ambiguity of wealth and comment on the commodification of art of what lies behind making art. The works feature a plethora of pop art motifs and toy with the concept of excess and are the new totem poles of our 21st century swipe right, swipe left society. From the Bugatti Veyron to the luxury watch, objects of success are toyed and played with before being sandwiched between a subversive and celebratory bun.

De Cadenet says, “The world is so full with preconceived notions and definitions about who we are, our identities and selves. Art can inspire insights into ourselves and through engaging with art, we can find a deeper authenticity, something that may be difficult to find in other areas of life.”

Andipa would like to extend a very warm thank you to Alex for his time and participation in our interview. For more information on his works and their availability, contact our team via sales@andipa.com.

Meteorite Egg

2017

Meteorite Metal

27kg

Edition of 1

POA

Creation (shiny version)

2015

Meteorite Metal

8 cms diameter

Edition a/p 2 of edition 3 + 2 a/p (engraved signature on base)

Skull Burger

2015

Polished Bronze

13 x 15cm

Unique Work

Veyron Burger

2015

Gold plated bronze

10 x 32cm

Unique Work

Jester Burger II

2018

Solid Silver Gold Plated

14 x 19 cms

Unique Work