

# Crystallising into a scene of beauty

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Bubbling under ... 127 tonnes of cola sludge. *Photo: Courtesy of the artist*

COLA rots your teeth and widens your hips, but can it be used to create objects of beauty?

The syrupy black sludge produced by Chinese factory workers boiling up thousands of litres of cola over 12 months suggests the answer is no.

## He Xiangyu Cola Project

He Xiangyu, Skeleton (2010). *Photo: Courtesy of the artist.*



The 26-year-old Chinese artist's *Cola Project*, which opens at 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art in Haymarket on March 16, features the black cola crystals, the tools used by workers to boil the liquid, traditional landscape paintings and a life-size white-jade skeleton.

"The exhibition is both gritty and refined," said 4A's director, Aaron Seeto.

"Jade is precious, cola is every day and a symbol of consumption, Song dynasty-painting is revered," Seeto said.

"In working with this artist, I was really drawn to his ability to bring together and combine these ideas and comment in gentle ways about their relationships."

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