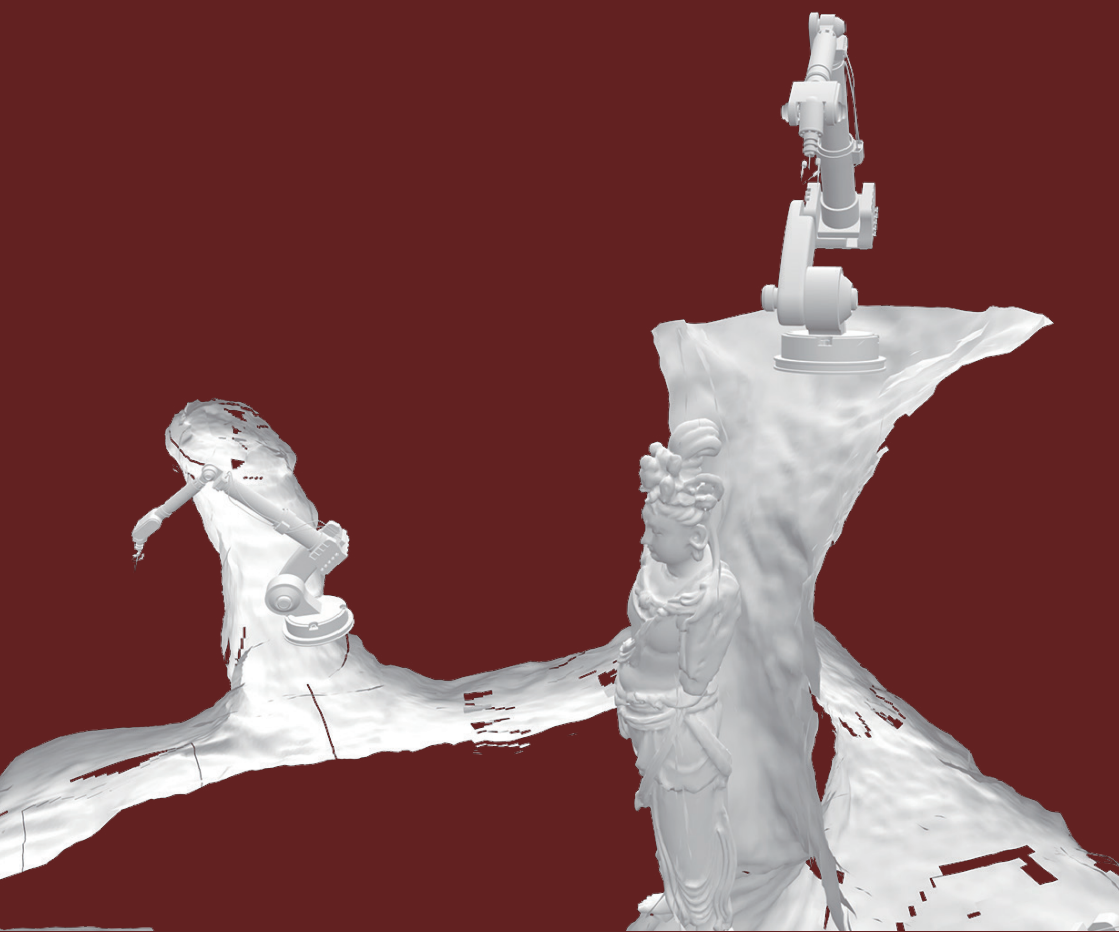
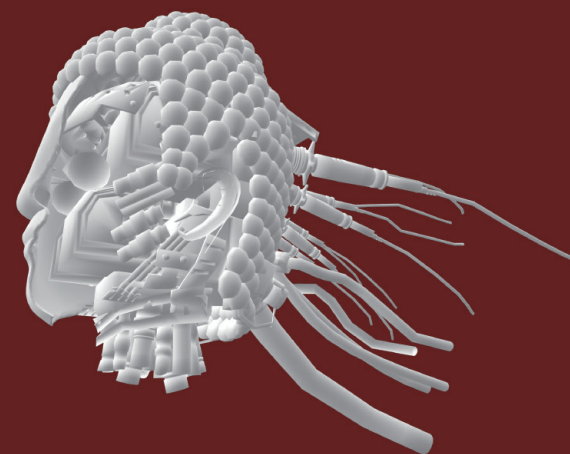


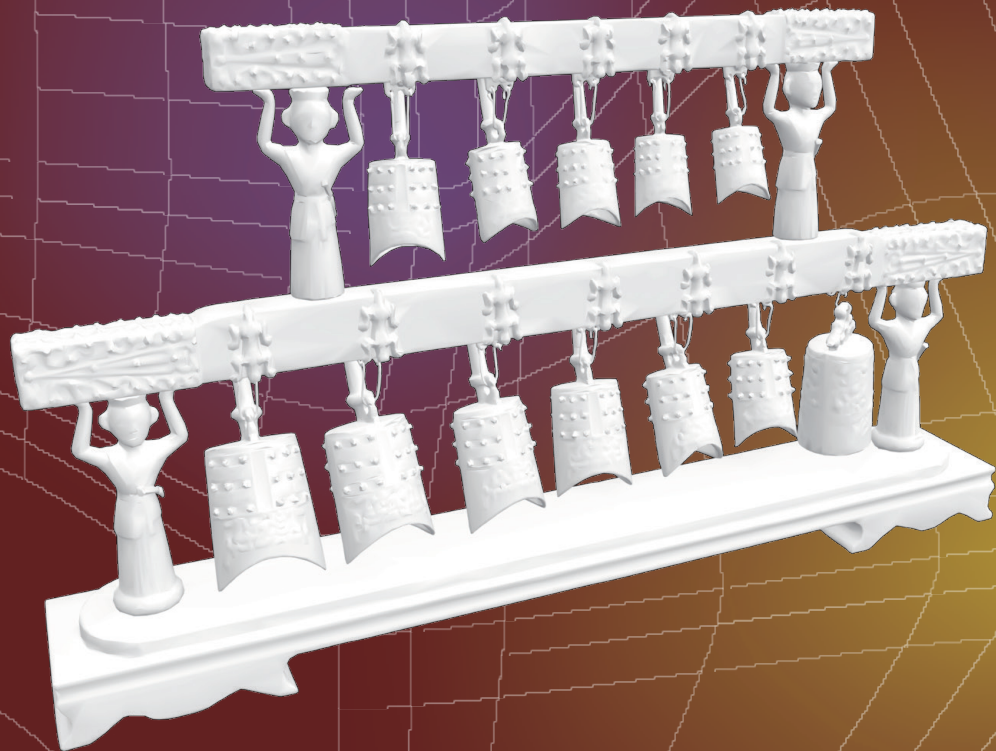
## THE ART OF NON-ACTION





### Jin Marquis Su Bells

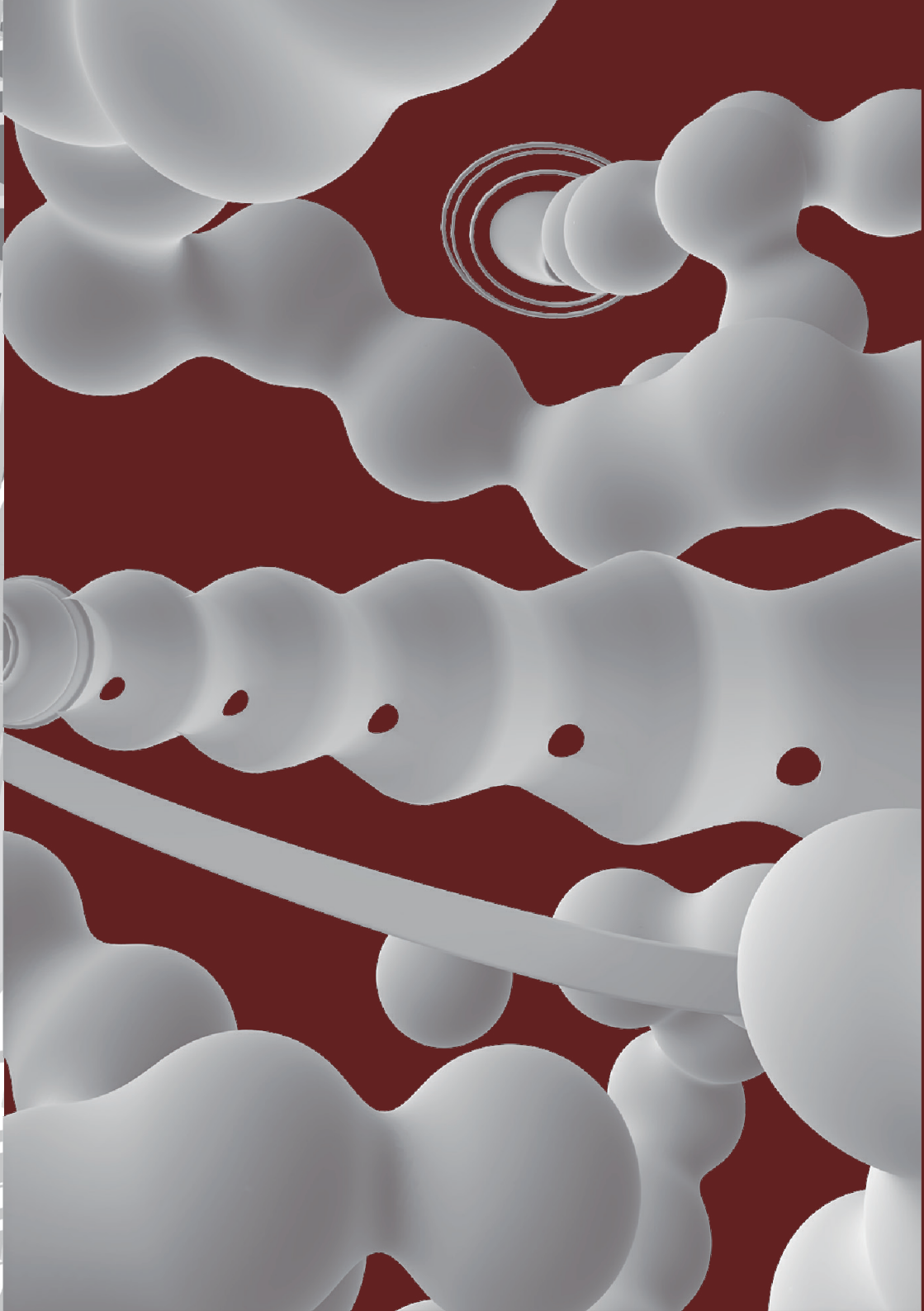
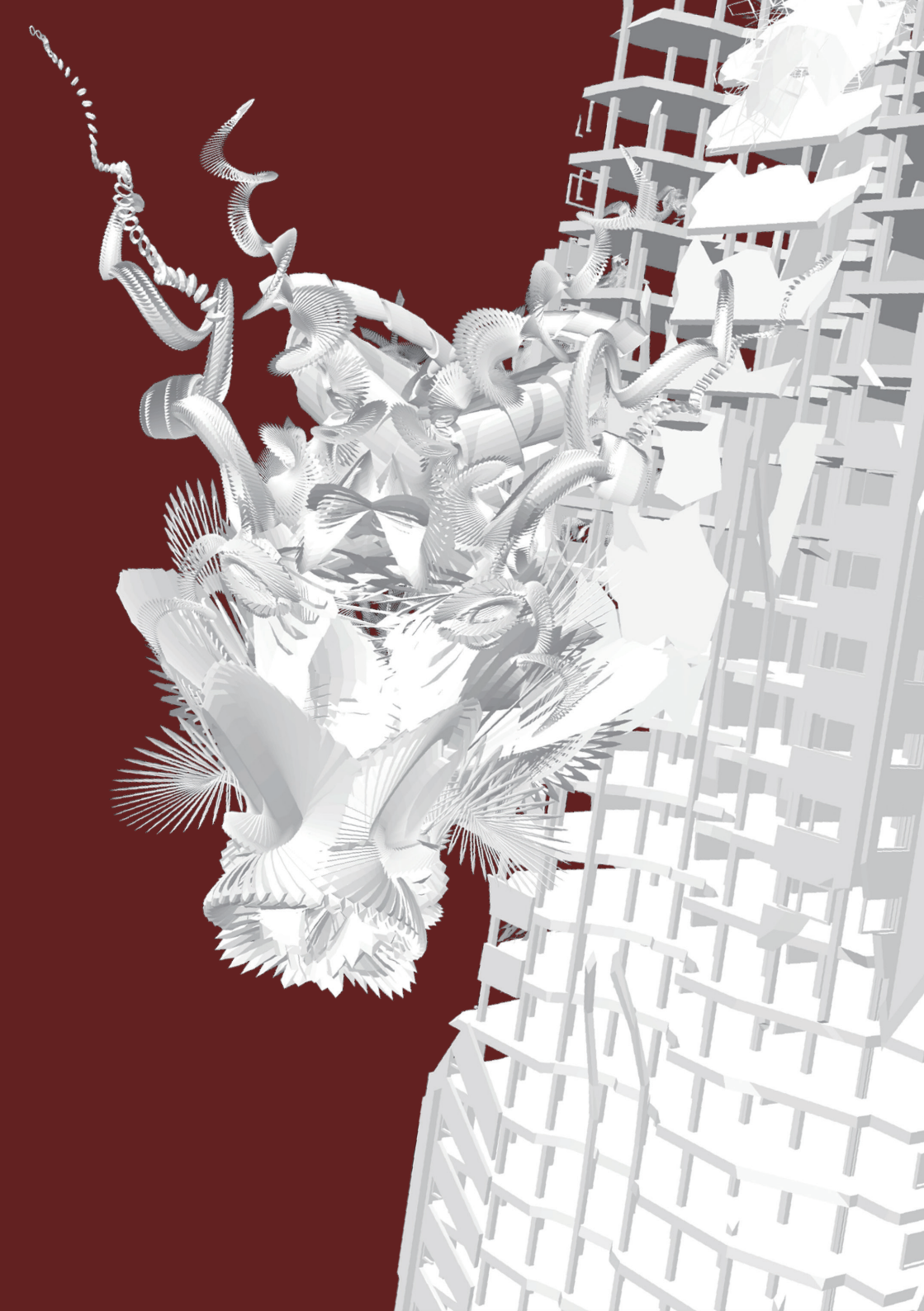
- Creation/Construction Time: Western Zhou Dynasty (11th – 8th century BCE, exact year unknown).
- Discovery/Excavation Time: 1990s, unearthed from Tomb 8 at the Jin Marquis Cemetery, Shanxi; 14 bells stolen in 1992.
- Current Location/Museum: 14 bells recovered by Shanghai Museum; some remain overseas.
- Description:
  - A set of 16 bronze bells, inscribed with 355 characters detailing the military achievements of Marquis Su of Jin.
  - Elegant design with clear tones, a hallmark of Western Zhou ritual music culture.
- Story/Historical Background:
  - Excavation halted in 1992 due to the harvest season, leading to the theft of 14 bells, later recovered by Shanghai Museum director Ma Chengyuan.
  - The inscriptions record Marquis Su's wartime valor, reflecting Western Zhou's political and military legacy.
- Future Vision:
  - A utopian Jin Marquis Su Bell modeled after the suona, embodying the folk vitality of this Chinese instrument, with a globalized, adaptable design.



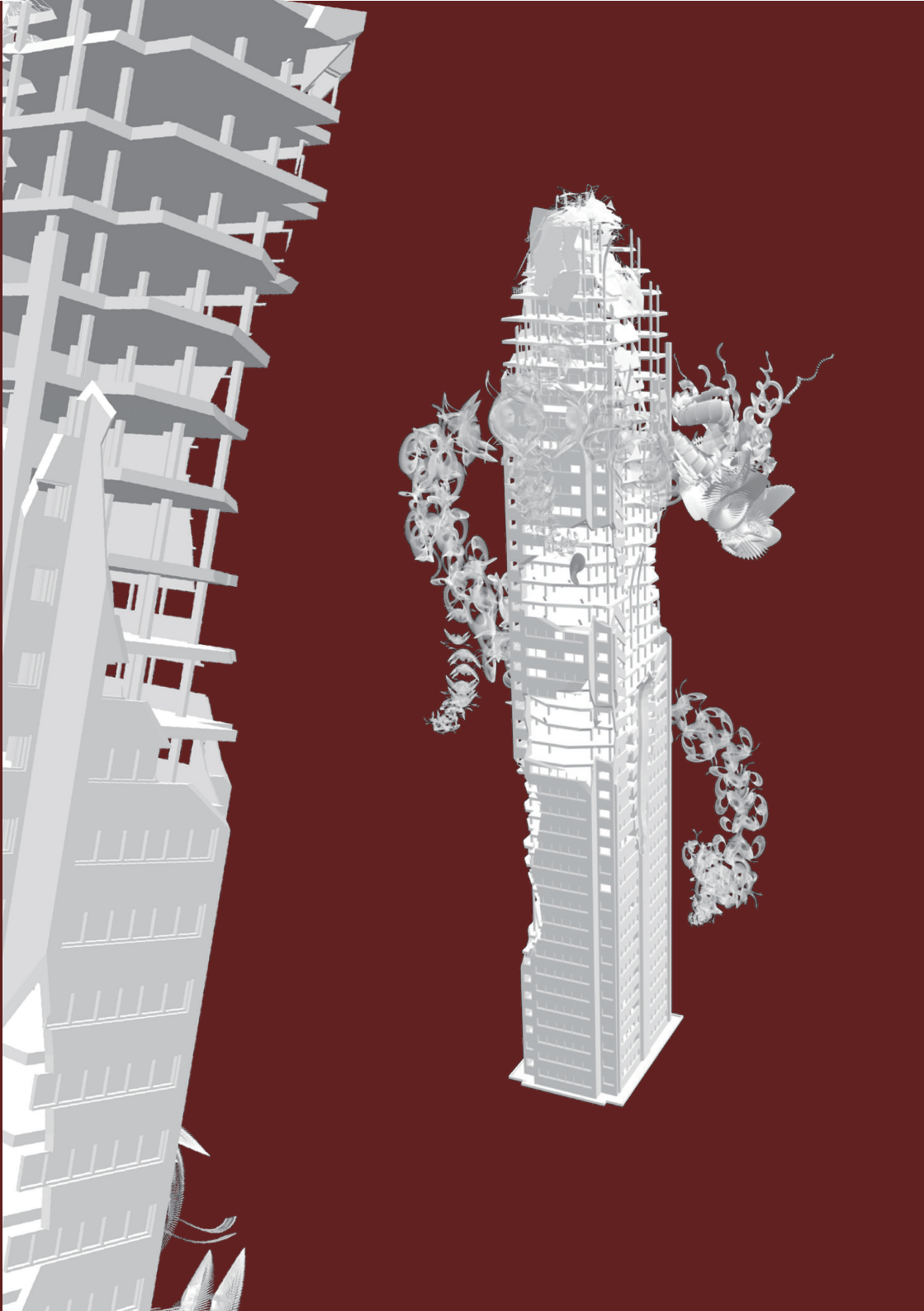
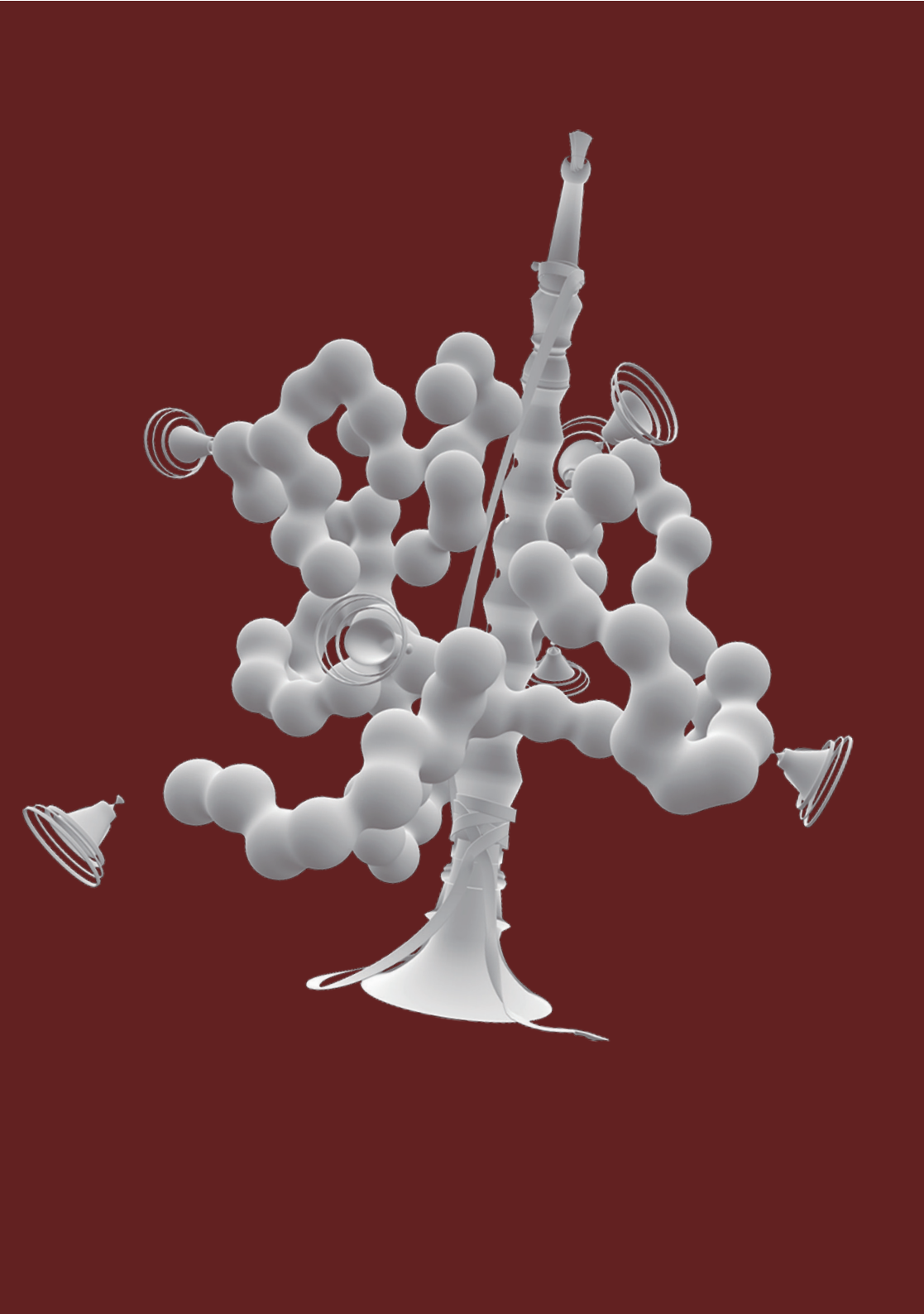
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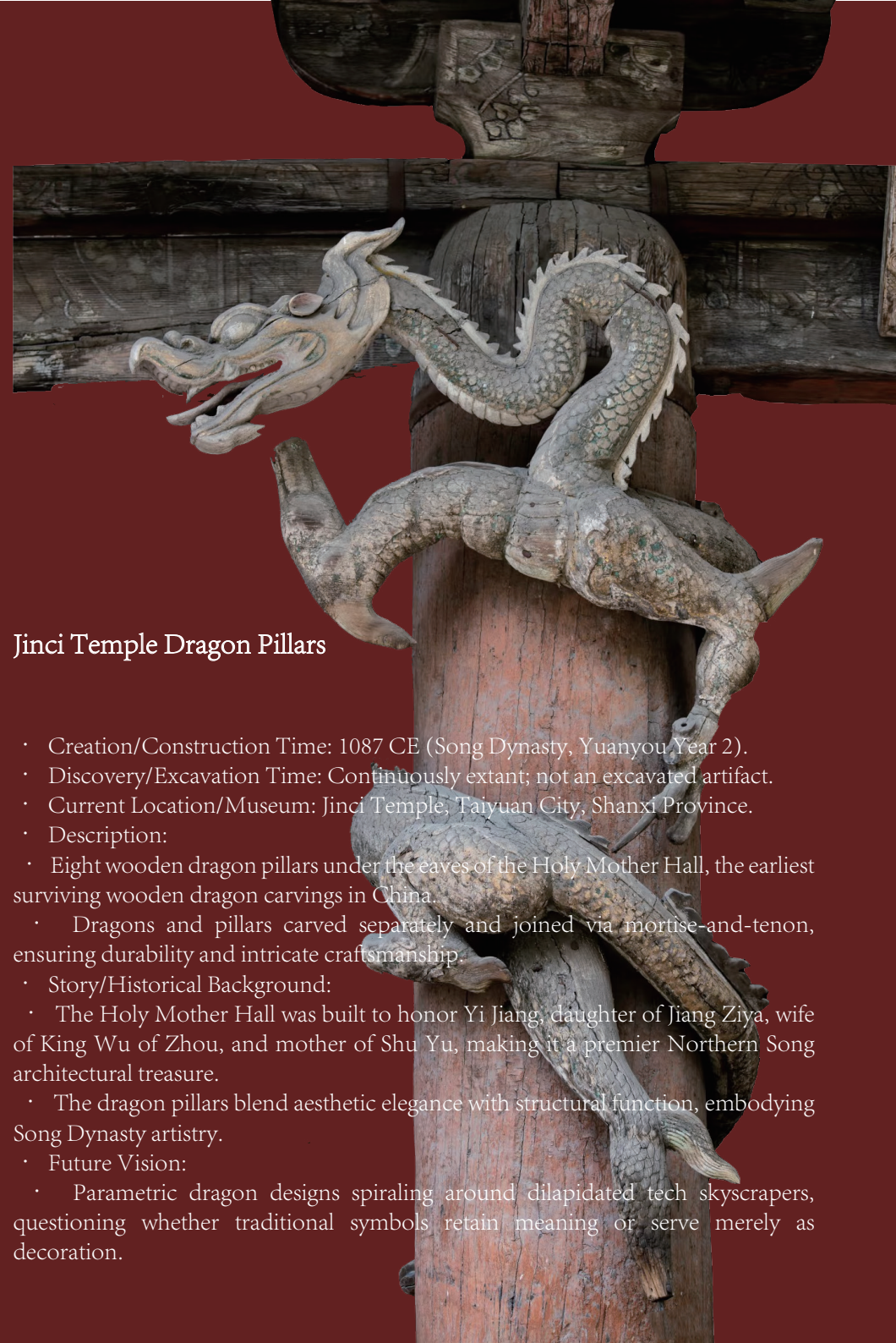
- 晉祠蟠龍柱  
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Model Summary











### Jinci Temple Dragon Pillars

- Creation/Construction Time: 1087 CE (Song Dynasty, Yuanyou Year 2).
- Discovery/Excavation Time: Continuously extant; not an excavated artifact.
- Current Location/Museum: Jinci Temple, Taiyuan City, Shanxi Province.
- Description:
  - Eight wooden dragon pillars under the eaves of the Holy Mother Hall, the earliest surviving wooden dragon carvings in China.
  - Dragons and pillars carved separately and joined via mortise-and-tenon, ensuring durability and intricate craftsmanship.
- Story/Historical Background:
  - The Holy Mother Hall was built to honor Yi Jiang, daughter of Jiang Ziya, wife of King Wu of Zhou, and mother of Shu Yu, making it a premier Northern Song architectural treasure.
  - The dragon pillars blend aesthetic elegance with structural function, embodying Song Dynasty artistry.
- Future Vision:
  - Parametric dragon designs spiraling around dilapidated tech skyscrapers, questioning whether traditional symbols retain meaning or serve merely as decoration.

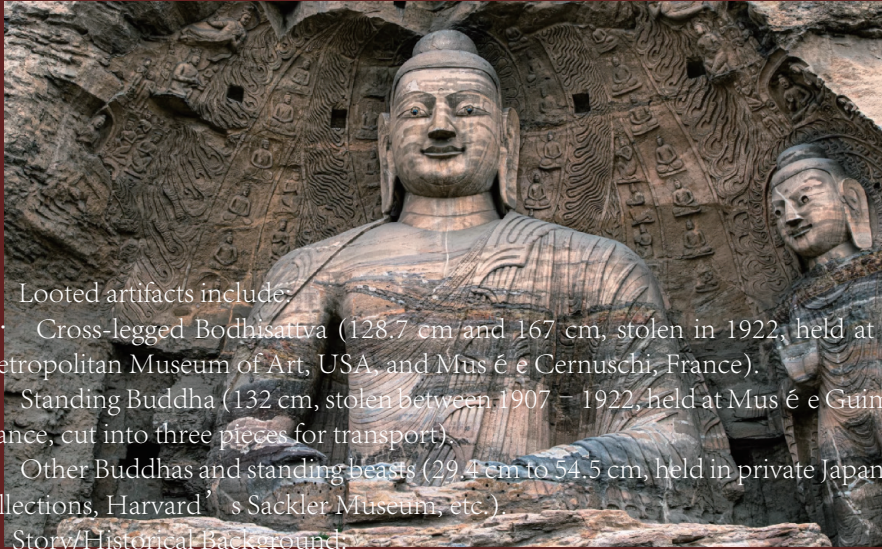




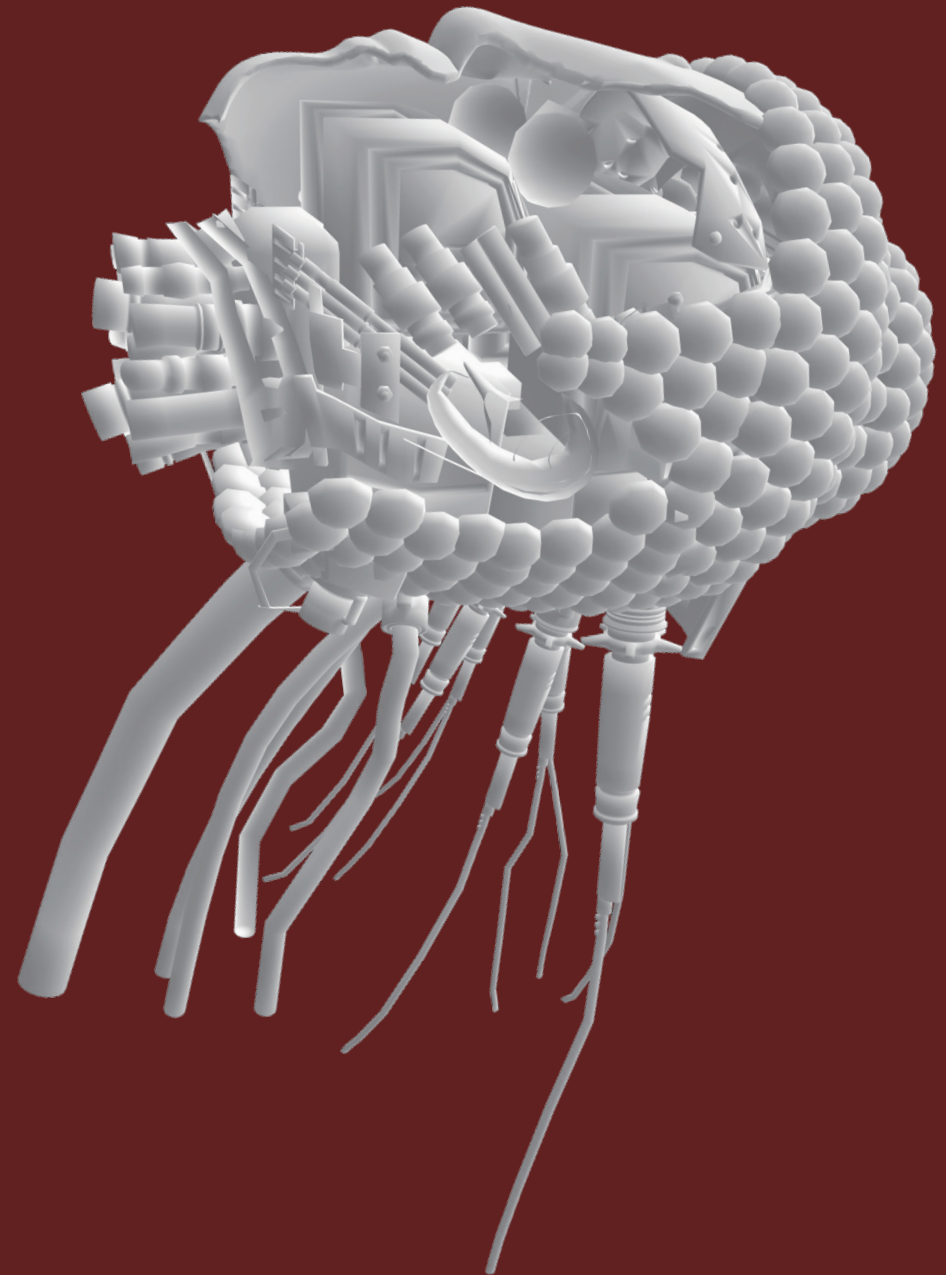


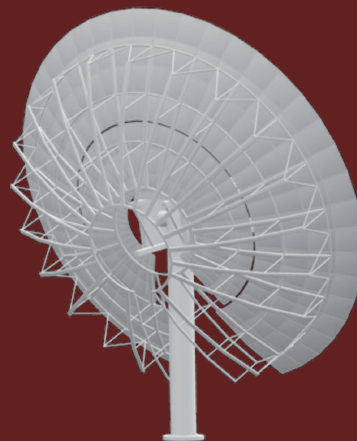
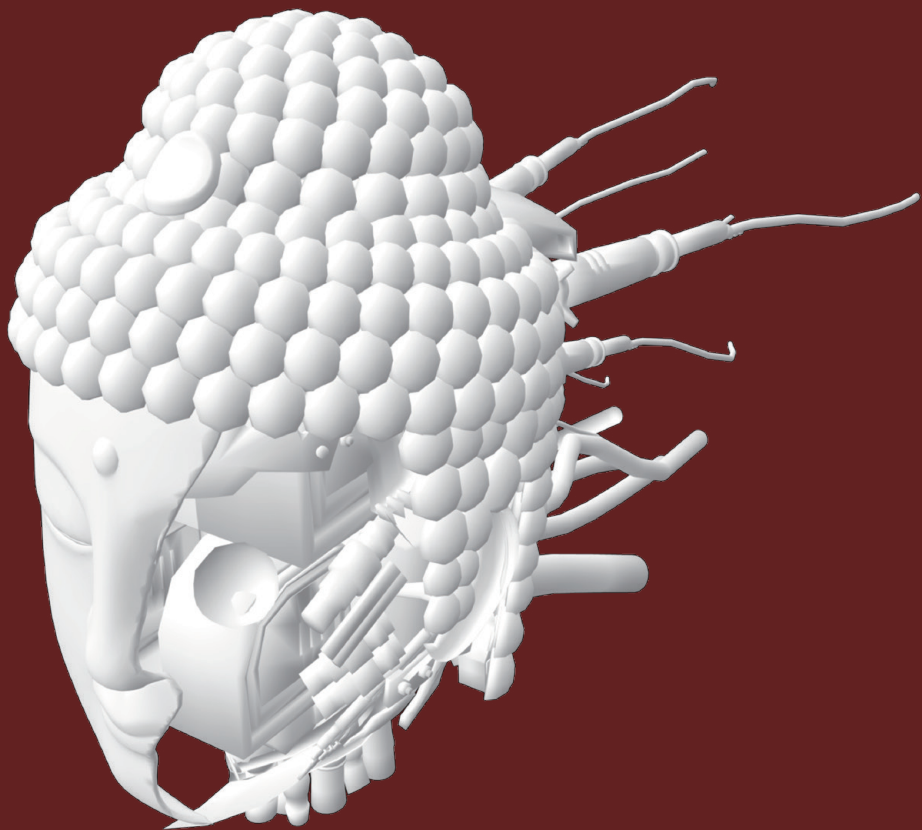
# Yungang Grottoes

- Creation/Construction Time: Approximately 1,600 years ago (Northern Wei Dynasty, 5th century CE, starting around 460 CE).
- Discovery/Excavation Time: Continuously extant; surveyed and documented by Japanese and French scholars from 1902 onward.
- Current Location/Museum: Datong City, Shanxi Province; some looted artifacts are held in museums in Japan, the United States, and France.
- Description:
  - The Yungang Grottoes, carved into a 1-km stretch of mountainside, comprise 45 caves with approximately 59,000 statues, integrating murals, sculptures, music, dance, and calligraphy.
  - Iconic feature: The open-air Buddha in Cave 20, 13.7 meters tall, with unique rock textures formed by millennia of weathering.



- Looted artifacts include:
  - Cross-legged Bodhisattva (128.7 cm and 167 cm, stolen in 1922, held at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, USA, and Musée Cernuschi, France).
  - Standing Buddha (132 cm, stolen between 1907 – 1922, held at Musée Guimet, France, cut into three pieces for transport).
  - Other Buddhas and standing beasts (29.4 cm to 54.5 cm, held in private Japanese collections, Harvard's Sackler Museum, etc.).
- Story/Historical Background:
  - A pinnacle of Buddhist art during the Northern Wei, showcasing cultural fusion with Gandharan influences.
  - In the early 20th century, the grottoes suffered from war, looting, and natural erosion; some caves were used as residences or stables.
  - Documentation by Japanese (1902) and French (1907) scholars spurred preservation efforts, but many artifacts were looted.
- Future Vision:
  - Millennia of climate and war will erode the stone Buddhas. Future humans or evolved species may re-excavate the caves, transforming them into digital art or virtual reality experiences.



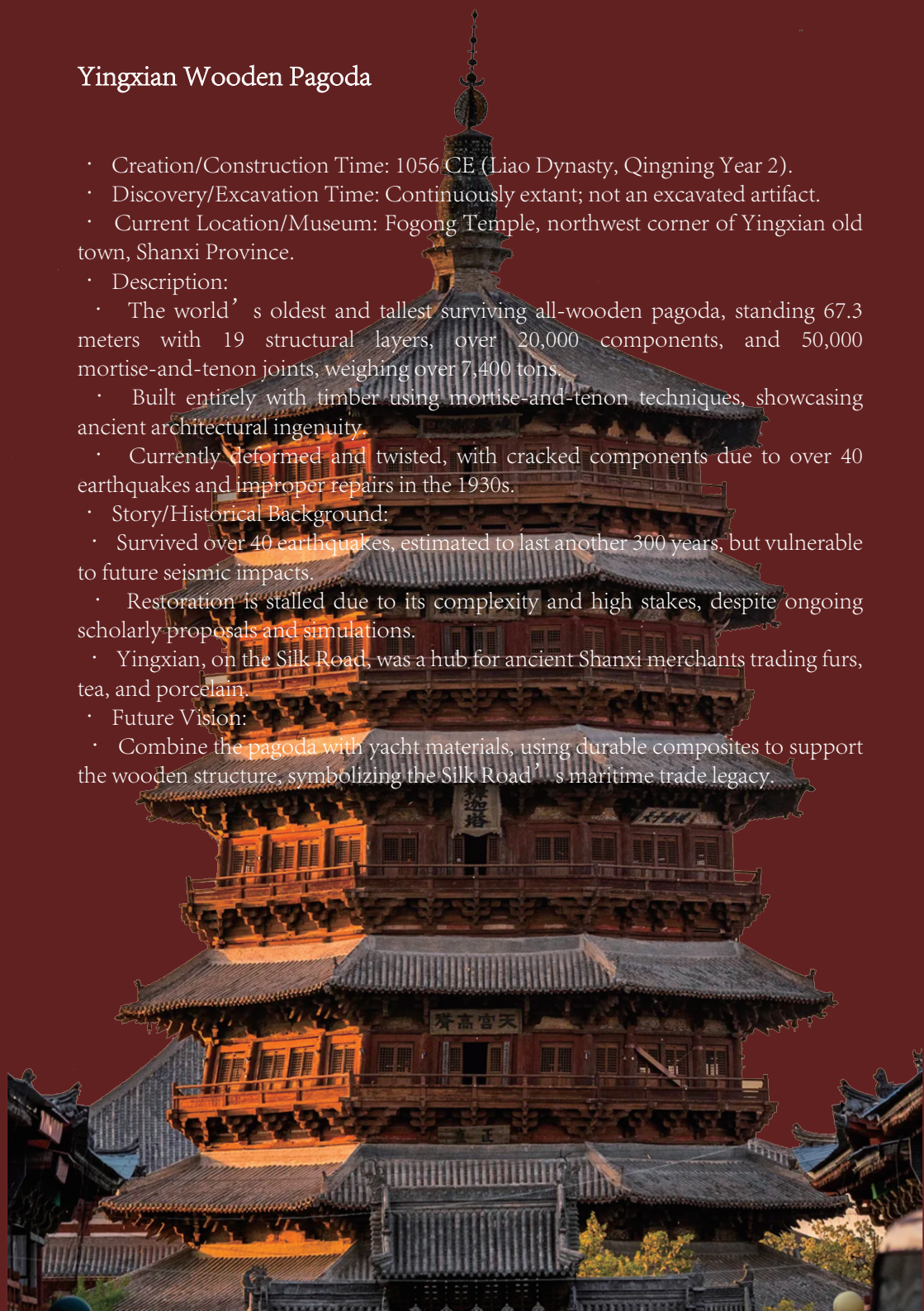




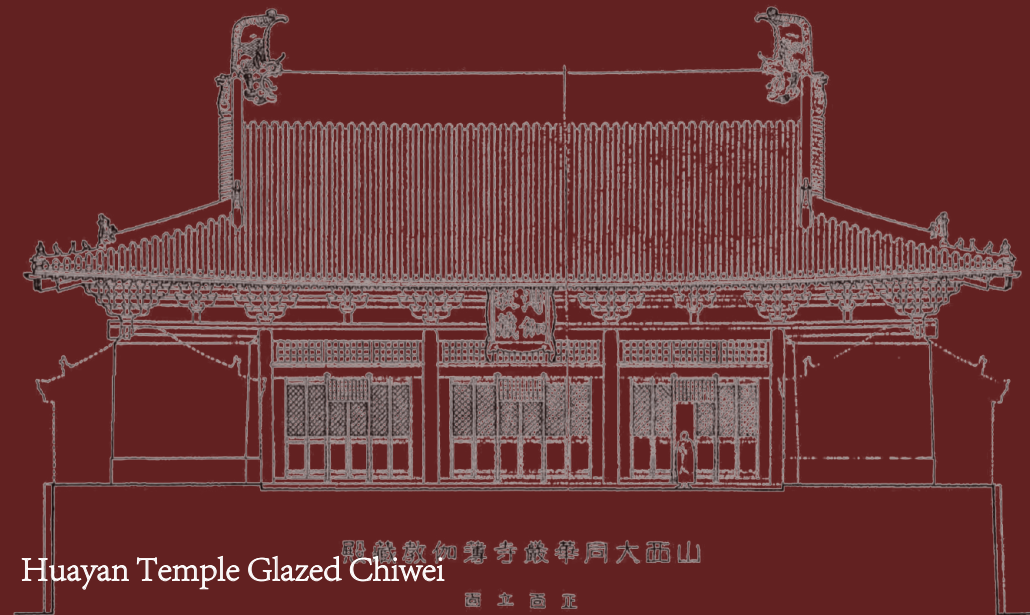
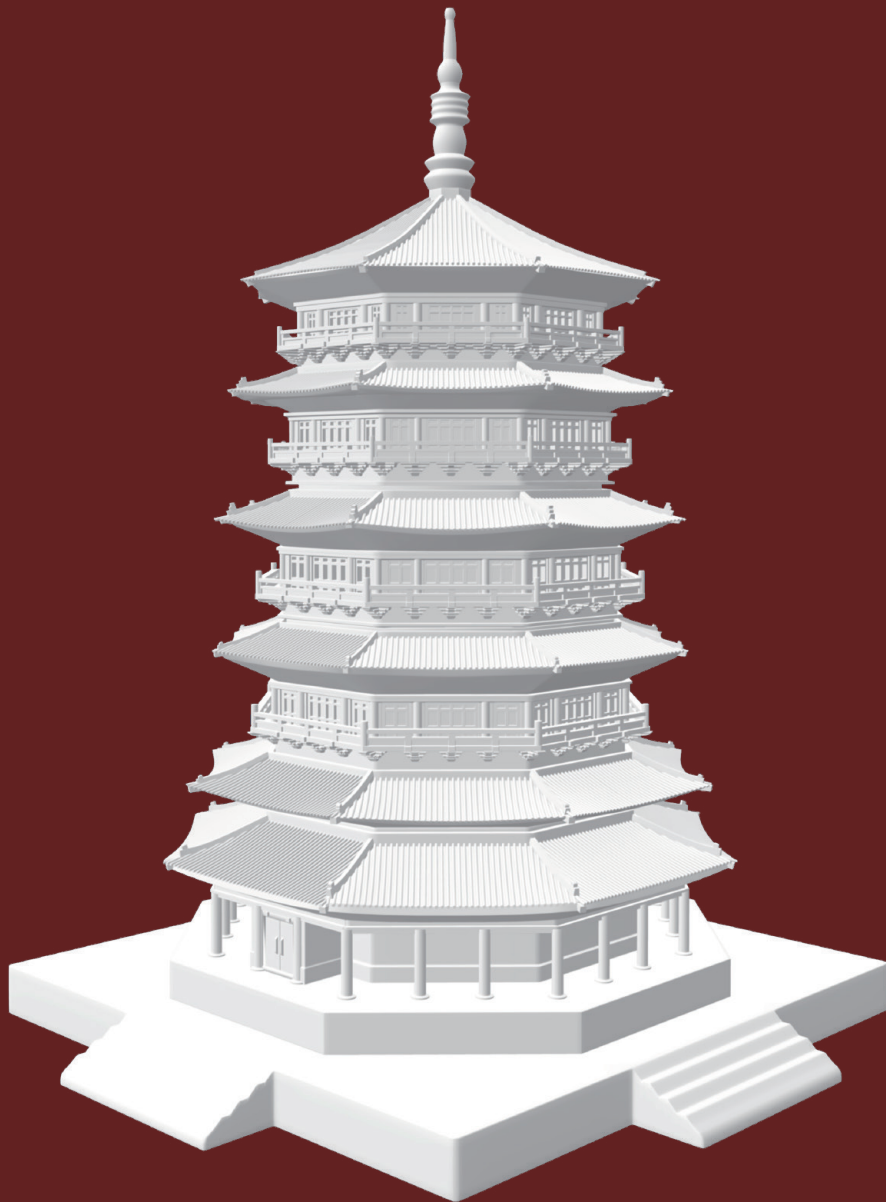


## Yingxian Wooden Pagoda

- Creation/Construction Time: 1056 CE (Liao Dynasty, Qingning Year 2).
- Discovery/Excavation Time: Continuously extant; not an excavated artifact.
- Current Location/Museum: Fogong Temple, northwest corner of Yingxian old town, Shanxi Province.
- Description:
  - The world's oldest and tallest surviving all-wooden pagoda, standing 67.3 meters with 19 structural layers, over 20,000 components, and 50,000 mortise-and-tenon joints, weighing over 7,400 tons.
  - Built entirely with timber using mortise-and-tenon techniques, showcasing ancient architectural ingenuity.
  - Currently deformed and twisted, with cracked components due to over 40 earthquakes and improper repairs in the 1930s.
- Story/Historical Background:
  - Survived over 40 earthquakes, estimated to last another 300 years, but vulnerable to future seismic impacts.
  - Restoration is stalled due to its complexity and high stakes, despite ongoing scholarly proposals and simulations.
- Yingxian, on the Silk Road, was a hub for ancient Shanxi merchants trading furs, tea, and porcelain.
- Future Vision:
  - Combine the pagoda with yacht materials, using durable composites to support the wooden structure, symbolizing the Silk Road's maritime trade legacy.

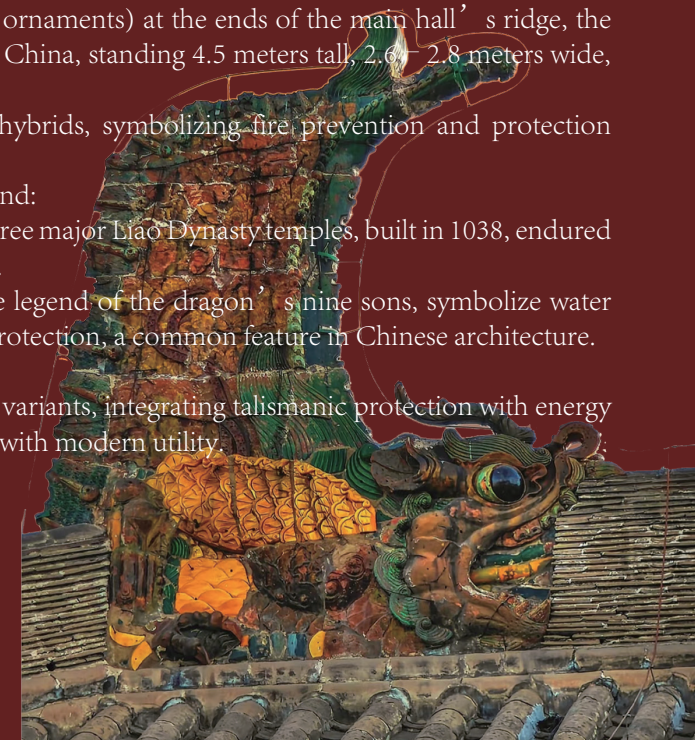


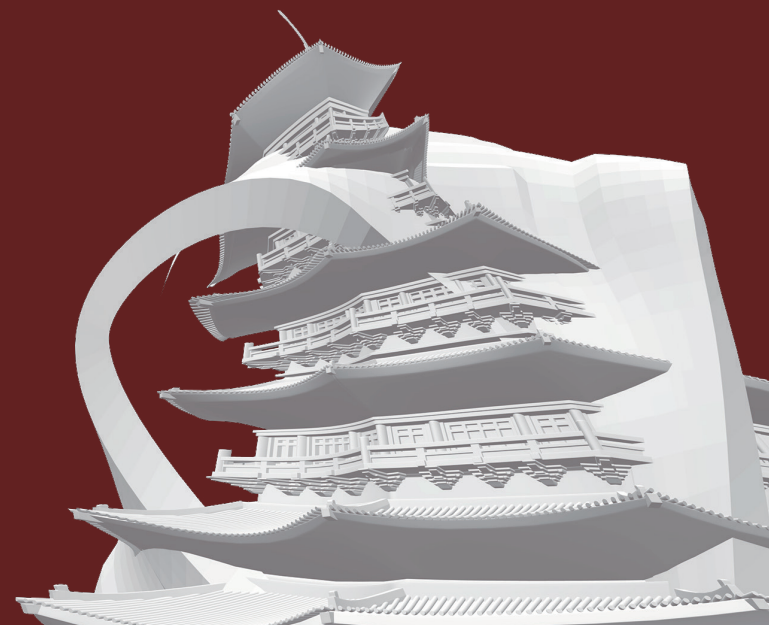
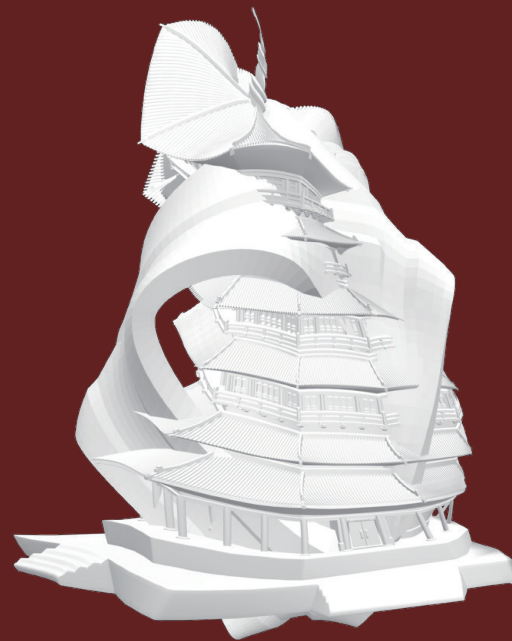




## Huayan Temple Glazed Chiwei

- Creation/Construction Time: Liao Dynasty (1038 CE for temple construction; chiwei likely contemporary or slightly later), extensively restored in 2008.
- Discovery/Excavation Time: Continuously extant; not an excavated artifact.
- Current Location/Museum: Huayan Temple, Datong City, Shanxi Province.
- Description:
  - Glazed chiwei (roof-end ornaments) at the ends of the main hall's ridge, the largest extant glazed chiwei in China, standing 4.5 meters tall, 2.6–2.8 meters wide, and 0.68 meters thick.
  - Shaped as fish-dragon hybrids, symbolizing fire prevention and protection against evil.
- Story/Historical Background:
  - Huayan Temple, one of three major Liao Dynasty temples, built in 1038, endured wars and was restored in 2008.
  - Chiwei, derived from the legend of the dragon's nine sons, symbolize water (fire prevention) and divine protection, a common feature in Chinese architecture.
- Future Vision:
  - Solar-powered roof ridge variants, integrating talismanic protection with energy generation, merging tradition with modern utility.













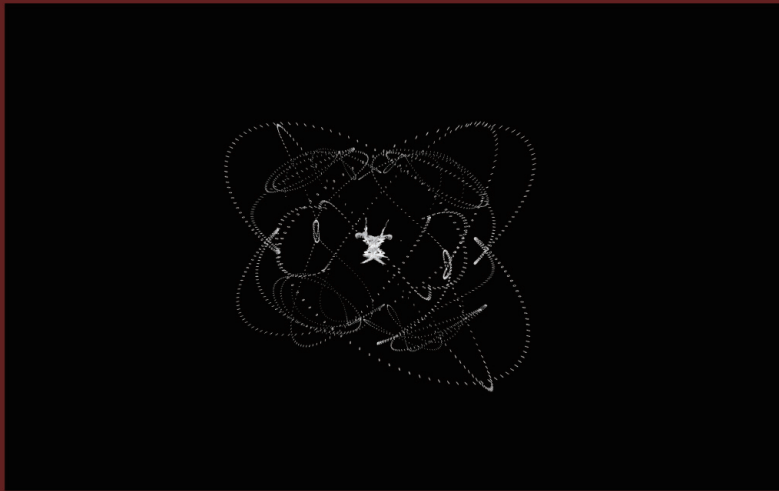
## Faxing Temple Twelve Enlightened Bodhisattvas (Fayun Di Bodhisattva)

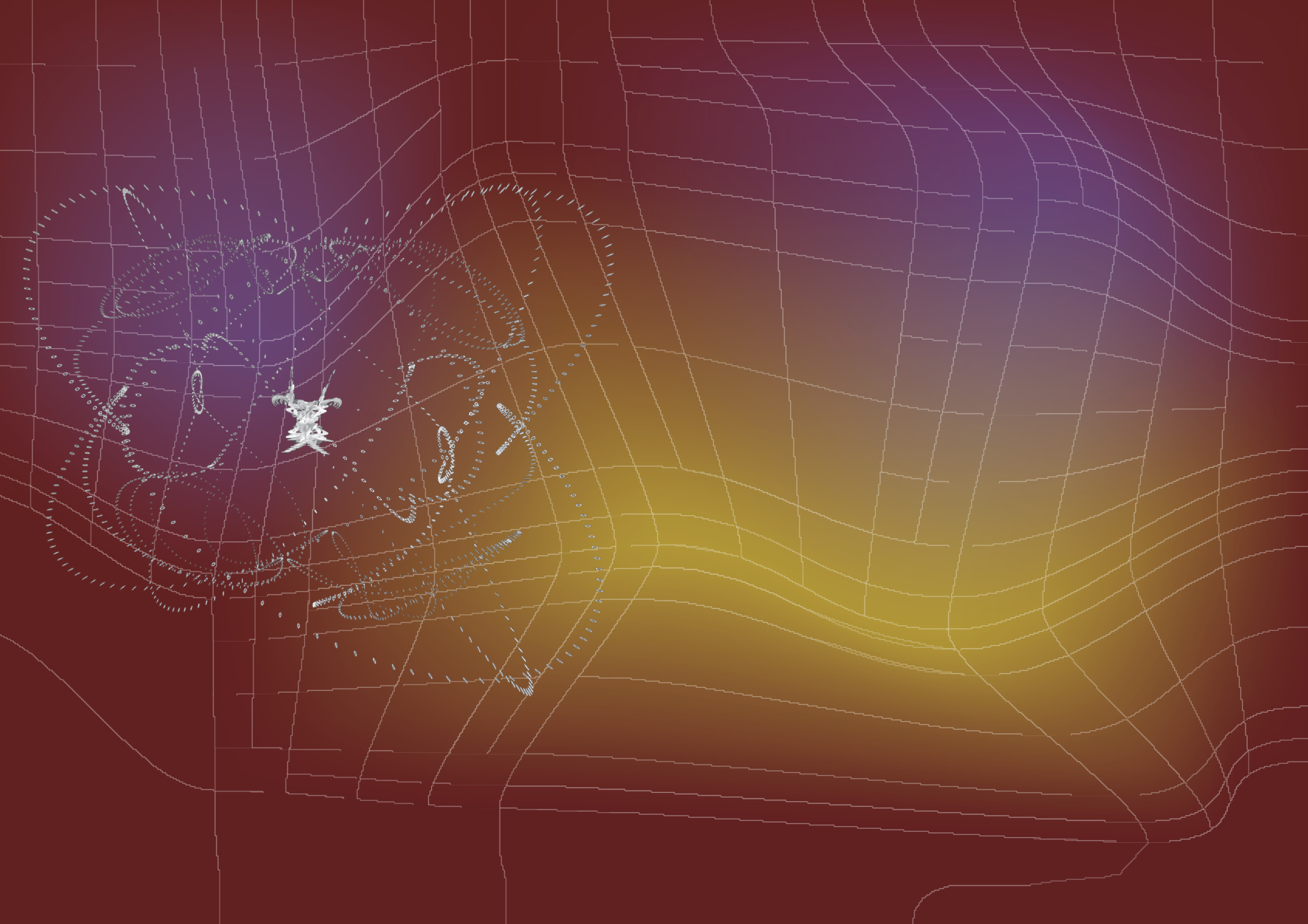
- Creation/Construction Time: 1111 CE (Northern Song Dynasty, Zhenghe Year 1); temple founded in 401 CE (Later Liang, Shending Year 1).
- Discovery/Excavation Time: Continuously extant; relocated between 1984 – 1993 due to ground subsidence.
- Current Location/Museum: Faxing Temple, Changzhi County, Changzhi City, Shanxi Province.
- Description:
  - Twelve mud-clay Bodhisattva sculptures, seated on lotus bases, exemplify the solemn and refined Northern Song artistic style.
  - The sculptures blend Tang Dynasty opulence with Song Dynasty's delicate and emotive aesthetics.
  - Due to relocation, the temple's murals were damaged, leaving the sculptures without their original backdrop.
- Story/Historical Background:
  - Faxing Temple, built during the Sixteen Kingdoms period, houses the Twelve Enlightened Bodhisattvas, symbolizing the 12 stages of Buddhist enlightenment.
  - Relocated in 1984 – 1993 due to mining-related ground subsidence, the temple was rebuilt with original components, but murals were lost.
- Future Vision:
  - Cybernetic twin digital Bodhisattvas, preserving the Song sculptures' divine aura through modern technological aesthetics.



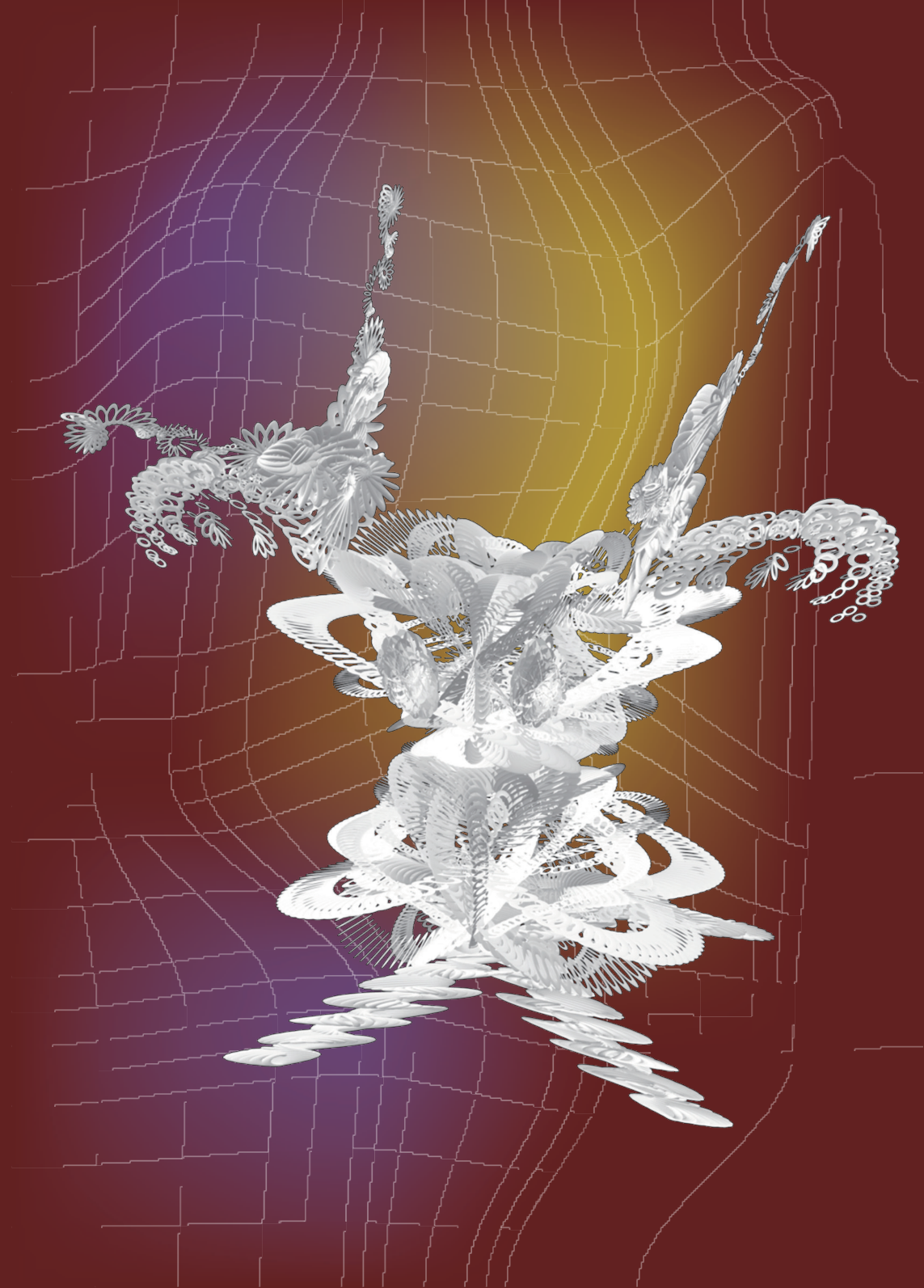
## Dunhuang Mogao Cave 158: Shakyamuni Nirvana Statue

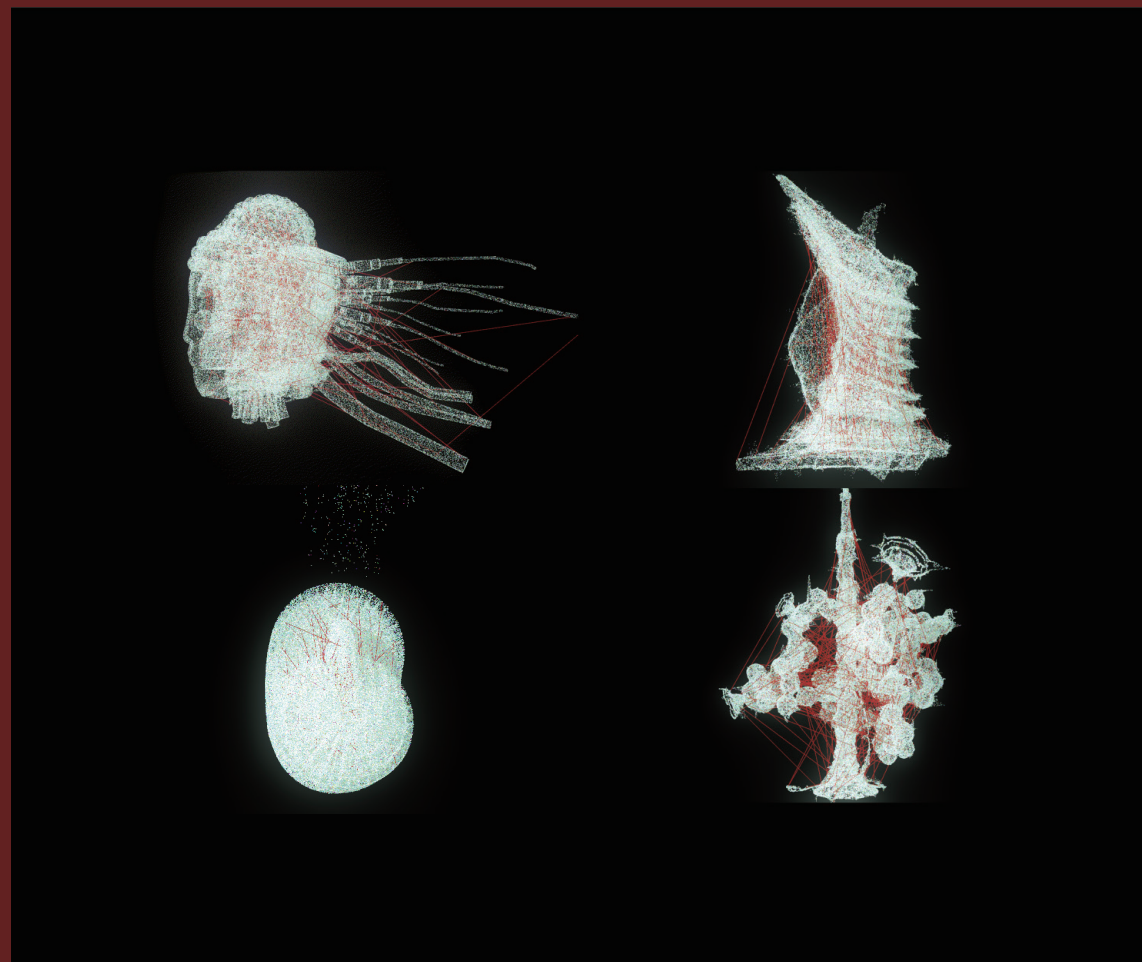
- Creation/Construction Time: Mid-Tang Dynasty (786 – 848 CE).
- Discovery/Excavation Time: Continuously extant; listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987.
- Current Location/Museum: Mogao Caves, Cave 158, Dunhuang City, Gansu Province.
- Description:
  - A 15.8-meter-long, 3-meter-headed reclining Buddha statue, depicting Shakyamuni's nirvana with serene expression, lying on his right side.
  - Located in Cave 158, it exemplifies the solemn and refined Buddhist art of the Mid-Tang period.
- Story/Historical Background:
  - Mogao Caves, spanning 1,000 years (366 CE to Yuan Dynasty), contain 735 caves. Cave 158 is a Mid-Tang masterpiece.
  - Nirvana, the cessation of greed, hatred, and ignorance, is symbolized by the reclining Buddha, a hallmark of Buddhist iconography.
- Future Vision:
  - Post-human Zen, merging the nirvana statue into digital art, unifying utility and divinity, echoing the Diamond Sutra's teaching: "All forms are illusory."

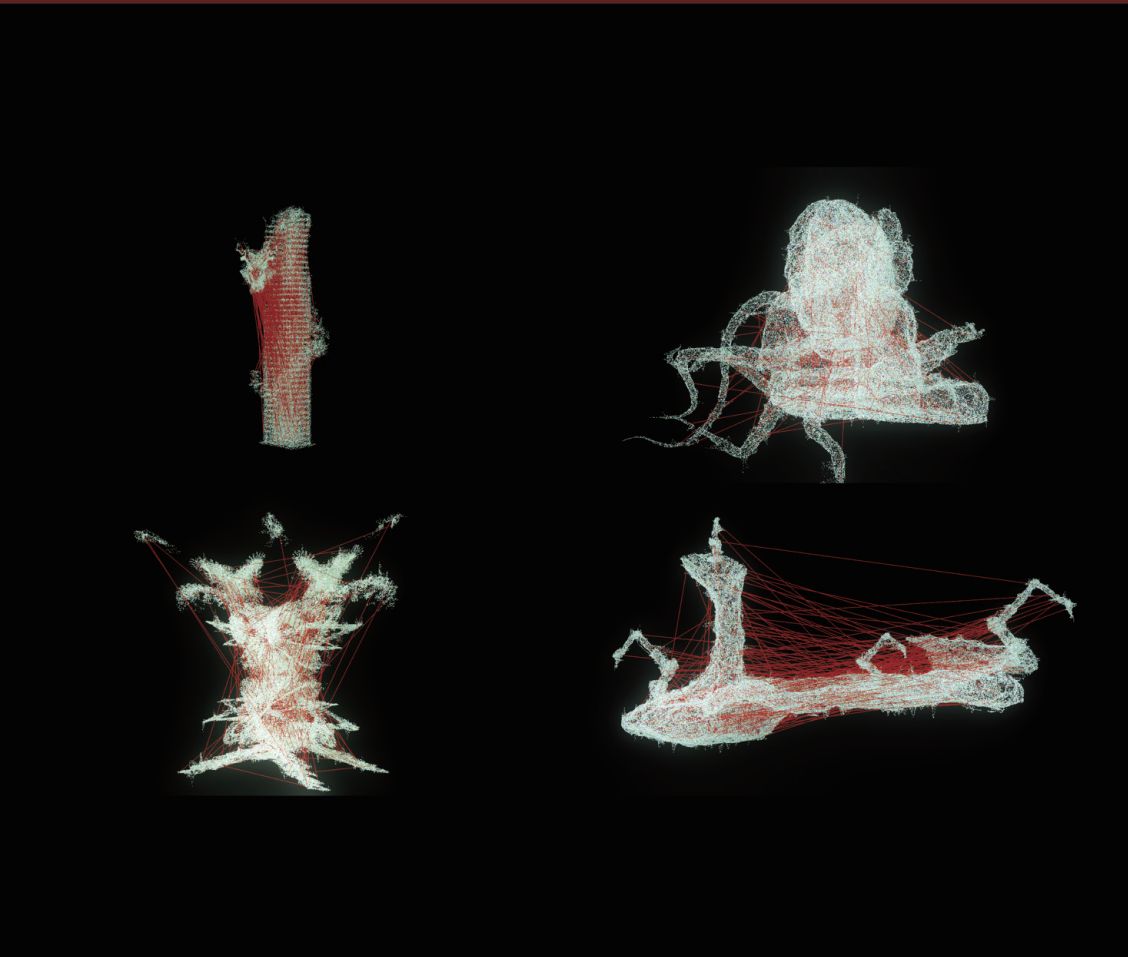












Owl-Shaped Wine Vessel (Xiao You)

- Creation/Construction Time: Approximately 3,000 years ago (Late Shang Dynasty, 13th – 11th century BCE).
- Discovery/Excavation Time: 1956, unearthed in Shilou County, Shanxi Province.
- Current Location/Museum: Shanxi Museum.
- Description:
  - The Xiao You is a bronze wine vessel shaped as two back-to-back owls, symbolizing a war deity.
  - The lid features owl heads with round eyes, sharp beaks, and curved brows, adorned with a central square-column knob and thunder patterns. The body is decorated with curled feather motifs, exuding a majestic yet refined aura.
  - It combines functionality and artistry, representing a masterpiece of Shang Dynasty bronze craftsmanship.
- Story/Historical Background:
  - Used in Shang Dynasty sacrificial rituals, reflecting reverence for nature and deities.
  - A similar owl-shaped vessel was found in the tomb of Fu Hao in Anyang, Henan. Fu Hao, wife of Shang King Wu Ding, was China's first documented female military commander, leading campaigns against over 20 tribes and expanding the Shang Dynasty's territory.
- Future Vision:
  - As a symbol of the Shang war deity, the Xiao You could be reimagined as a modern art installation, blending metal sculpture with lighting effects to evoke strength and protection.



