

Xu Bing
Tobacco Project

January 29 to June 10, 2012

Works in the Exhibition

All dimensions h x w x d in inches unless otherwise noted

Artist's father's medical records, 1989

Ink on paper, envelope

11-1/2 x 9

Production drawings for *Chinese Spirit*, 1999

Graphite on paper

11 x 8-1/2

Sketch for *Chinese Spirit* lid graphics, 1999

Ink, graphite on paper

11 x 8-1/2

Sketches for *Chinese Spirit* trade cards, 1999

Graphite on photocopy paper

11 x 8-1/2

Production drawing for *Miscellaneous Book*, 1999

Graphite on paper

11 x 8-1/2

Sketch for *Miscellaneous Book* and *Notebook*, 1999

Ink, graphite on paper

11-15/16 x 9

Production drawing for *Reel Book*, 1999

Graphite on paper

15-1/8 x 12-5/8

Sketch for *Traveling Down the River*, 1999

Graphite, red ink on paper

11 x 8-1/2

Study for *Traveling Down the River*, 1999

Burned cigarette, staples, graphite on burned paper

11 x 8-1/2

Study for *Traveling Down the River*, 1999

Red and black ink on paper with cigarette and burn mark

11 x 8-1/4

Study for *Traveling Down the River*, 1999

Pencil on paper with gold-foil cigarette packaging and cigarette burn mark

11 x 8-1/4

Sketch for unrealized work, 1999

Graphite, ink, "Rizla" rolling papers, cigarette-pack tax seals

11 x 8-1/2

Calendar Book, 2000

"American Spirit" cigarette boxes, artist's father's medical records, plastic desk-calendar frame

Fabrication assisted by Jason Wagner
3-1/8 x 7-7/8 x 7-1/4

Chinese Spirit, 2000

"American Spirit" uncut double cigarettes, hinged balsa box printed in English and "square word calligraphy"
Cigarettes courtesy of Michael Little, Santa Fe Natural Tobacco Company; wooden boxes fabricated by Brad Johnson, Harvey Craig, and Alan Dippy, courtesy of the Duke University Museum of Art
3/4 x 7-1/4 x 4-5/8

Trade Cards for *Chinese Spirit*, 2000

Three cards, ink on paper, with adapted early-twentieth-century design
6 -1/2 x 4 each

Match Books, 2000

Cardboard matches, printed with text from Robert Frost's "Fire and Ice" (1920)
Matchbooks courtesy of Michael Little, Santa Fe Natural Tobacco Company
1-5/8 x 1-3/4 each

Miscellaneous Book, 2000

Custom-cut "American Spirit" cigarettes, painted with Chinese texts from Daodejing and Chairman Mao's words; hinged wooden box
Cigarettes courtesy of Michael Little, Santa Fe Natural Tobacco Company; wooden boxes fabricated by Brad Johnson, Harvey Craig, and Alan Dippy, courtesy of the Duke University Museum of Art
13-1/2 x 31 x 1/2

Notebook, 2000

"Zhonghua" cigarettes, rubber-stamped with computer keyboard characters; original metal case with lid-interior paint selectively scraped off
3-5/8 x 6-3/4

Redbook, 2000

"Zhonghua" cigarettes, rubber-stamped with various English translations of quotations from Chairman Mao's Little Red Book; original metal case
3-1/2 x 3-7/8

Reel Book, 2000; modified in 2011

Continuous roll of cigarette paper, typed with text from *With the Poets in Smokeland* (1875–90), wooden crank mechanism, printers ink
Typing by Andrea Donnelly; crank mechanism fabricated by Brad Johnson, Harvey Craig, and Alan Dippy, courtesy of the Duke University Museum of Art; rubber stamp by Jill Zevenbergen
16-1/2 x 29 x 10-1/4

Tang Poems, 2000

Accordion books made of cigarette-filter tipping paper, typed with English translations of Tang poems
Typing by Kwong Li and Nicole Hess; tipping paper courtesy of Michael Little, Santa Fe Natural Tobacco Company
3/8 x 2 x 1
1/3 x 2 x 1-1/2
1/4 x 2 x 1-1/2

Notebook, 2004

"Dannemann" cigarillos, rubber-stamped with computer keyboard characters; original metal case with lid-interior paint selectively scraped off
3-5/8 x 6-3/4

Pipe, 2004; seventh stem added in 2011

Wood tobacco pipe with seven stems and tobacco
Fabrication assisted by Michael Muelhaupt
12-1/4 x 10-1/2 x 3-3/8

Prophecy, 2004

Reproductions, ink pen on glass, document reproductions from the James Augustus Thomas Papers, 1905–41, Rare

Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library, Duke University
15 x 29 each

Untitled, 2004

121 "Zhong Nanhai" cigarettes, acrylic box
1-3/8 x 3-1/2 x 3-1/2

Untitled, 2004

Ceramic ashtray, paint
1-1/8 x 3-1/2 diameter

Sketch for untitled small work, 2004

Graphite on paper
11 x 8-1/2

1st Class, 2011

500,000 "1st Class" cigarettes, adhesive, carpet
Dimensions variable

Fabrication assisted by Taylor Baldwin, Anna Bushman, Jillian Dy, Michael Muelhaupt, Yi Sheng, Sayaka Suzuki, Yao Xin,
and numerous others

Backbone, 2011

Collaboration with René Balcer
Offset printing on cigarette paper, screen-printed tipping paper cover and stenciled wood box
11-1/2 x 13

Fabrication assisted by Sayaka Suzuki and Xu Bing's Beijing Studio
Images courtesy of Valentine Richmond History Center; paper courtesy of Phil James, Mundet International

Backbone, 2011

Collaboration with René Balcer
76 pieces; offset printing on cigarette paper with screen-printed tipping paper
15 x 29 each

Fabrication assisted by Sayaka Suzuki and Xu Bing's Beijing Studio
Images courtesy of Valentine Richmond History Center; paper courtesy of Phil James, Mundet International

Sketch for *Light as Smoke*, 2011

Graphite on paper
11 x 8-1/2

Match Flower, 2011

Branches, red match-head paste
Fabrication assisted by Andrea Donnelly
6 feet high overall

Nature's Contribution, 2011

Live tobacco plant
Courtesy of The New York Botanical Garden
6 feet high overall

Puff Choice, 2011

Uncut double cigarettes, hinged wooden box with rubber-stamp printing
Fabrication assisted by Amy Chan, Nicole Andreoni, and Jill Zevenbergen
7/8 x 7-9/16 x 7-3/16

Trade Cards for *Puff Choice*, 2011

Iris inkjet prints on paper
8 x 8 each
Fabrication assisted by Yi Sheng and Miriam Ewers
Images courtesy of Valentine Richmond History Center

Tobacco Book, 2011

Tobacco leaves, rubber-stamped with passage from *A True Discourse on the Present State of Virginia* by Ralph Hamor (1615)

53-3/4 x 39-3/4 x 3-7/8

Tobacco leaf courtesy of Marvin Coghill; fabrication assisted by Jillian Dy, Yi Sheng, Sayaka Suzuki, and Yao Xin

Traveling Down the River, 2011

Specially made long cigarette, burned on a reproduction of *Along the River* during the Qingming Festival by Zhang Zeduan (1085–1145)

36 feet

Working checklist for the *Virginia Tobacco Project*, 2011

Ink, graphite on paper

11 x 8-1/2

Xu Bing, Tobacco Project: Virginia, 2011

Video documentary by Joe Griffin; 18:09 minutes

A sound recording of the sound poem *Backbone*, performed by Captain Luke (vocals) and Big Ron Hunter (guitar), can be heard by visiting aldrichart.org/exhibitions/Xu_Backbone.php.

Music By: Captain Luke, Big Ron Hunter, and Michael Sackler-Berner

Producer: Michael Sackler-Berner

Engineer: Chris Stamey

Recorded August 10, 2011, at Modern Recording in Chapel Hill, North Carolina Publishing: Lucky Guitar, City's Pearl Publishing & Mattawin Music

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