



pedro pires sculpts large-scale skull using 140 life vests and rubber from a refugee dinghy

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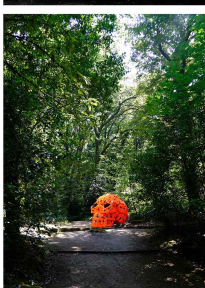
pedro pires' 14,000 newtons is a large-scale skull sculpture made of 140 life vests and rubber from a refugee dinghy found in the greek island of lesvos in 2016. the project derives from the line of work that the anglo-portuguese artist has been developing about migration since two years ago, when he visited lesvos, splitting his time between volunteer work with the NGO (IRC) helping migrants/refugees that arrived by boat, and documental and graphic recording, as well as physical reflection of items.



The intention is to create a contrasting dialogue between the elements of the work, the past and the reality found in lesvos, allowing for a platform of discussion concerning migration, escape, responsibility, life and death," mentions pires. 14,000 newtons is composed of black rubber from a migrant boat found in march 2016, parts of which were cut and transferred to the artist's skulls in lesvos, together with 140 orange life jackets, while it aims at creating a contrast with its surroundings as well as with the migration context of the city of viena, part of the public sculpture festival project, the work has been installed in the forest park, in the city of viena, portugal, along with projects by portuguese artist vitoria azavedo and canadian architect tomy barthe.



the sculpture comes two years after of his well's life jacket installation, for which the chinese artist wrapped six columns of the berlin lanternhaus in refugee life jackets discarded and collected in-lesvos. also utilizes the personal flotation device once more, as a symbol to draw back attention to the ongoing humanitarian crisis.



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