



The artist has drawn inspiration from discarded items retrieved from all corners of Shanghai. — Zhou Shengjie



Vintage and modern converge in Redic's living room. — Zhou Shengjie



The hallways in the house are transformed into art corners. — Zhou Shengjie



Sculptural "THRONES" are a standing topic of Redic's works. They are collected from different corners of the city. — Zhou Shengjie

"I wanted to salvage some of the history, some of essence of neighborhoods, and then from a bigger standpoint, reinterpret them in art with the themes that I imbue in my mind," he said.

A major series of his works is entitled "THRONES," which are created from old chairs and stones found at construction sites.

"I take the stones and crush them into a consistency that I can use to mold and sculpt them," said Redic.

One of the "thrones" was created from a discarded chair that Redic retrieved from his own alleyway.

"It was calling to me," he said. "I didn't have any creative space for it, so I kept walking past it. I tried not to see it. But eventually I had to take it."

Over the years, Redic has enjoyed a friendly rapport with his neighbors, who didn't seem to mind when his artistic fervor spilled out into common areas like

hallways and stairs.

He has shared important moments in their lives, like the birth of a first child to one couple.

Redic's works are now on display at an exhibition in Shanghai Culture Square, just a three-minute walk from the lane where he resides.

The exhibition, which runs through mid-March, is called "PRELUDE Rubies in the Rubble: The Humanity Chapters of Redic."

He calls it a "prelude" because he said this will be the first in a series of solo exhibitions in Europe this year.

His works are strongly evocative of Shanghai. Take his major series entitled "Doors of Shanghai/Doors of Life."

It is based on doors that Redic collected from different corners of the city. The first was found not far from his home in 2017.

He covered the doors in his own modern art. On them, he painted poetry or lyrics that

occurred to him while creating the artwork, and he used mirror shards and other objects for ornamentation.

"I've always been fascinated by doors," he said. "In Los Angeles, I had a series of works called 'Doors to My Imagination.' When I learned that Shanghai had 16 districts, I wanted to create a door for each of the districts."

The series conveys an array of messages that doors universally impart, like "doors of opportunity" and "as one door closes, another opens."

The current exhibition, which includes poetry readings and art-sharing events, will be Redic's last engagement before heading off to Europe.

"I feel that it's time to take my experiences in Shanghai and share them with more of the world," he said. "The roots of what I've done in Shanghai and in China run deep."

Will he return?

"I need to leave the door open," he said enigmatically.



The "Doors of Shanghai/Doors of Life" series is based on doors Redic collected from different corners of the city. — Kirill Buhtiyaro



Click here to watch the video of his art and life in Shanghai