

GALERIE LAMY
CHABOLLE



A Modern Bronze Acupuncture Model,
or *Tong Ren*

Bronze

China

h. 47 cm (18.5 in.)



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This acupuncture bronze model, or *tong ren*, represents an interesting synthesis of art and medical science, rooted in a tradition of acupuncture education dating back to the Song Dynasty in 11th-century China. Far more than a decorative sculpture, it serves as a standardized three-dimensional textbook, meticulously mapping the meridians and acupoints through which *Qi* is believed to flow.

This specific figure is a Modern iteration of the classical medical model, produced via sand casting with a sand core. Cast in a heavy bronze alloy, the sculpture features a dark, oxidized patina that accentuates the intricate network of 361 primary acupuncture points and 14 major meridians (*Jingluo*) integrated directly into the metal. The anatomy is presented in a rigid, formalized "anatomical position" to ensure an unobstructed view of the pathways and the Chinese characters identifying each site. It functions as a precise cartographic instrument, codifying the body as a "microcosm" of universal forces and providing a tangible, durable reference for the complex topography of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

14 rue de Beaune, 75007 Paris
+33 1 42 60 66 71
galerie@lamychabolle.com — www.galerielamychabolle.com

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