

# Junked gadgets charge this artist's imagination

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**Bangalore:** A piece of artwork created out of a mindful mish-mash of 1,500 cellphone chargers. Here's an installation that's turning many heads.

Liu Bolin, an artist from China who is in India and Bangalore for the first time as part of the Art Bengaluru 2014 festival, has come up with this unique

creation. Liu's work, The Charger Series, adorns the wall of The Collection, an art gallery in UB City. The artist has plugged cellphone chargers into steel forms of the human body to express his disagreement with such possessions.

"Cellphone chargers serve as a concrete indicator of boundless

human desires. Ever since I purchased my first mobile in 2000, I've used many brands. When I break or lose my phone, or when I upgrade to a new one, another charger piles up. At home, I have an entire drawer full of them. Even though they are completely useless, I can never bring myself to throw them away," says Liu. In 2010, he decided to make use of the discarded chargers and started planning this series.

Born in China's Shandong province in 1973, Liu completed his bachelor of fine arts from Shandong College of Arts in 1995. He went on to do his master of fine arts from the Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing, in 2001.

While Liu finds every phone accessory useless, he doesn't have the heart to discard them. "I feel



Chethan Shivakumar

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## BOUNDLESS DESIRES

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**Liu Bolin** | ARTIST FROM CHINA

guilty throwing them away because they are still functional. Every time I switch to a new phone, the earlier one becomes a burden. As we carry more and more burden on our shoulders, we are gradually pulled away from the essence of life. The sheer variety of brands, styles and sizes of the chargers show not only the diversity of life but also traces of human desire. As functional objects become unusa-

ble, they perfectly represent the unacceptable nature of human desire," says Liu, explaining the essence of his work.

Comparing chargers to dust growing and accumulating over traditional society, Liu says, "Our thinking in this era has become rotten. This work symbolizes our survival in this decaying society. Weighed down by ever-growing burdens, we are rendered lifeless. Waiting for death is in each of our fate."

The visiting artist hasn't heard of India much. "I have little idea about Indian art and culture; I want to see works by artists here. I've watched a couple of movies like Slumdog Millionaire and Three Idiots. The songs and dance sequences reflect Indian culture." The exhibition is on till August 30.