

# Wallpaper\*

In pictures: the W\* photography desk's daily digest of visual inspiration  
Ren Hang at MAMA  
20 June



'I don't have to photograph to live,' says Ren Hang, citing 'life' as his inspiration and 'fun' as the imperative for shooting. Hang's words, like his images, are succinct and uncompromising.

He writes poetry, takes photographs and sculpts bodies, arranging his models into polyploid organisms – Hang prefers his work to do the talking, even if it is physically absent from the exhibition space. When told by Chinese authorities that a certain photo cannot be displayed due to its 'pornographic' content, he exhibits an empty frame instead: providing negative space as a comment on censorship.

Showing for the first time in LA, Hang has nothing to fear – after all, 'nudes are nudes. They are not sexy or quirky. If they have any meaning, it is because I give them meaning.' That said, the 'meaning' in most of his work is too elastic to pin down, which only adds to its dark intrigue.

'What We Do Is Secret' is on view at MAMA, LA until 23 July.

Pictured: Untitled 3, by Ren Hang. Courtesy the artist

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