

## Andrew Thomas Huang

*The Beast of Jade Mountain: Queen Mother of the West (西王母),*  
2023-24

Polymer, steel, automotive paint

Courtesy of the artist

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## Education Resource (K-6)



*3D sculpture by Andrew Thomas Huang*



## Overview

In ancient Chinese myth, tigers are significant and powerful creatures often appearing in legends. As a Chinese zodiac sign, the tiger symbolises nobility and fearlessness, existing in the space between the divine, the animal and the human. For American Chinese artist Andrew Thomas Huang the tiger is a symbol of freedom and strength that connects him to his culture.

A film director by trade, Huang's career to date combines live action and visual effects to create characters that exist in multiple worlds; between male and female, but between the human and the non-human, the real and the imagined.

Here Xiwangmu (西王母), Queen Mother of the West in Chinese mythology, is represented as neither goddess, monster or myth, but as a tiger. Crowned with her messenger birds, qingniao (青鳥), she wears a mask showing a compassionate human face.



*3D Render of the sculpture  
by Andrew Thomas Huang*

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## Discussion Questions

Look at *The Beast of Jade Mountain: Queen Mother of the West* (西王母) and discuss the colours, shapes, textures and size.

What do you notice about the creature's face? If you had to describe the creature in one word, how would you do it?

Why do you think Huang chose to make the work this size?

Andrew Thomas Huang describes his work as “fantasy” and “mythological dreamscapes”.

What do you think when you hear the word *fantasy*? What about the word *myth*?

How might art tell stories in the way books and films tell stories? What are some myths you can remember?

What kinds of myths, fairytales or folktales have you heard from your own families, and how might you make art from these?

## Practical Activities

Huang's works often reflect gods and monsters from ancient myths.

Invent a mythological god or goddess of your own and describe their personality, their appearance and their special powers.

Create an image of the figure you've created. Pay attention to the details including their clothes and accessories.

The figure in *The Beast of Jade Mountain: Queen Mother of the West* (西王母) wears a mask over their true face. Take a cardboard mask and use the materials you have available to you to decorate and adorn the mask. Pay attention to the shapes, colours and textures you use. Try to create a mask that makes you feel strong and powerful.



Andrew Thomas Huang  
*East Wind* [still], 2018  
Digital sculpture and motion capture  
83.82 x 66.04cm  
Photography: Andrew Thomas Huang  
Courtesy of the artist

