



Cut into, 2017
fibreglass, wood, resin

La Trobe University, Geoff Raby Collection of Chinese Art.
Donated by Dr Geoff Raby AO through the Australian
Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2019. © Rose Wong.
Photos: Jia De

Contemporary artist and art educator Rose Wong was born in Hong Kong in 1988 and is now based in Beijing. Her practice is informed by her own experience as a female artist, and she negotiates ideas around power, sex, violence and trauma. After studying literature and fine art at the University of Hong Kong, she graduated with a Master of Arts in Artist Teacher and Contemporary Practice from Goldsmiths College, University of London.

Wong's grenades are made with fibreglass, wood and resin. Almost one metre in height, they are dissected to reveal the image of a soft fruit centre, effectively disarming the weapon and presenting us with a site of origin and regeneration. In *Cut into* (2017), liquid appears to ooze from the fruit, which resembles a vulva, emphasising the interaction between categories of 'hard' and 'soft'.

The juxtaposition of the grenade and the fruit might at first appear to contrast a symbol of violence and death with one of sweetness and life. However, both these visual metaphors gesture towards a wound. The visual motif of the open wound can be identified in other works by Wong, including her sculpture titled *Inner* (2016), in which liquid appears to leak from the central opening onto the surrounding lace surface. These references to porosity may be interpreted as a desire to transgress the boundary between the tough exterior and the soft interior, reflecting on the interconnectedness, as opposed to the hierarchy, between the two.

Shanti Shea-An, 2022