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## SOAP WITHOUT A ROPE SCULPTOR'S QUIRKY TAKE ON ANCIENT ARTEFACTS

**Louise Jury**

Chief Arts Correspondent

THEY look like classical marble statues and porcelain vases that China has long exported to the West. But these works are made of soap.

They are by Korean artist Meekyoung Shin, 43, and are on show at the **Haunch of Venison** in the West End. She began working in this unlikely

medium 15 years ago when she arrived in London to study at the Slade School of Fine Art. The vases she reproduces were made in China from the 16th century specifically for the West and so were as alien to her as the sculptures of Greek and Roman antiquity. She knew them only from books she read as a child.

"To me, they looked as if they were made from soap," she said. Meekyoung Shin works often by

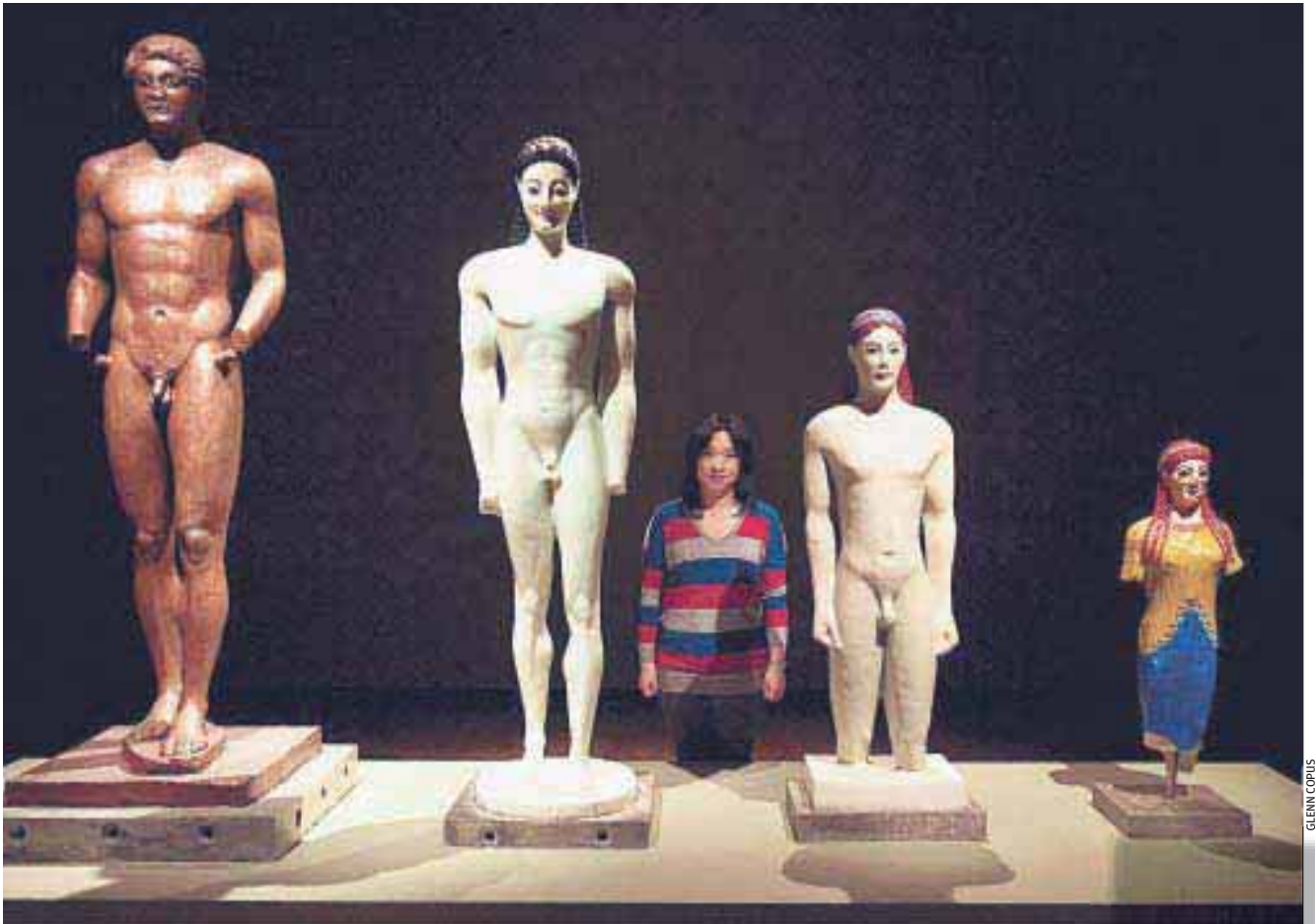
melting soap and casting it, sometimes by carving. The works are then engraved or painted. "They take a long time," she said. "I try to make them as similar as possible to the original piece although people can notice differences. The smell shows that they are not ceramic."

■ *Meekyoung Shin – Translation until April 2, admission free.*  
[www.haunchofvenison.com](http://www.haunchofvenison.com)



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