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| Artist | Marc Quinn |
| Title | **Siren** |
| Date | 2008 |
| Medium | 18ct gold |
| Scale | Life size (88h x 65w x 50d cm) (weight = 50kg, around the same as its subject) |
| Scope | Gender |
| Style | Young British Artists (YBA) |
| Patron | - |
| Location | Shown in the British Museum in 2008 |
| Function | Dealing with the idealised unreal image of the idolised body. |

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| Formal features |
| Composition | A presentation of Kate Moss, an icon of our time, in a contorted yoga pose. Feet tucked behind head, pointing upwards = vertical emphasis, linking to God and heaven? |
| Colour or texture | Polished gold – wealth, sacred, valuableSmooth – flawless |
| Light & tone | - |
| Space & depth or relief | Hollowed eyes, folds and creases in skin and material, and strands of hair are accurately represented.  |
| Line or brushwork | - |

Use or development of materials, techniques & processes:

Gold – wealth, sacred, valuable

Influence from technological factors:

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Critical text quote:

"Human beings often create images, begin to worship them and then forget the images were initially invented by them. They are left with an abstract image that is impossible to measure up to. This is the basis of all celebrity and religious imagery. Gold is a metal that humans have decided is one of the most valuable materials in the world, but like their invented images of perfection, gold itself is a belief system - inherently no more valuable than any other metal.” – **Marc Quinn**

It's about trying to live up to impossible dreams and immortality." – **Quinn**

‘a mirror of ourselves, a knotted Venus of our age.’ – **Quinn**

Influence from political factors:

It first display, at the British Museum (2008) coincided with the beginning of the global financial crisis, emphasising the fragility of all the belief systems about wealth and value.

Stylistic comment and artistic influence:

The gold shell sculpture is based on a 2,000 year old Buddhist sculpture which relates to a moment of enlightenment.

Influence from cultural/social factors:

Kate Moss seen as an object of beauty, a cultural hallucination, rather than an actual person of flesh and blood. Commenting on the unachievable standards of society. Celebrities and supermodels are worshipped like gods, as is beauty. There is a desire to achieve perfection. The Yoga poses show the difficulty of beauty.

Image:

