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| |  | | --- | | **Alena Katikova** | | **Helen Birnbaum** | | The fading power of the Western hemisphere and the increasing dominance of the East is played out on this old ballcock.  THE KING OF PLUMBING  Chairman Mao sits proudly on top of his copper world, balancing on top with confidence. Although Mao is no longer in charge his effect is felt throughout this powerful country and the artist wanted to show this by positioning him on top of the world with an inflated China dominating the Western hemisphere. The satire is found in what this world is made from. The tremendous progress that China has made economically, and over such a short space of time, has had a dramatic effect on the power of the East and levels of mineral extraction in China as symbolized in the use of the copper orb. The copper orb is actually a piece of rusty old copper ballcock the artist found in a reclamation yard in Wigan  CERAMIC FIGUREHEAD  The head has been modelled in stoneware ceramic using stoneware glazes. Helen looked very carefully at contemporary images of Mao before she produced this because this is the only ‘real life’ aspect of the piece, and needed to be correct if it was to be an effective contrast with the battered found copper object below it representing the world.  Her Mao-like king stands on top of his copper world. She chose the garish blue and greens to emulate the pop art colours of Andy Warhol’s Chairman Mao screen prints, and to make the figure seem rather sinister |  | |  | |  | |  | | --- | | *Kingdom Gone* http://i.ebayimg.com/00/s/OTc1WDEwMDk=/z/274AAOSwbqpT6f~n/$_35.JPGExample of ballcockhttp://visualizingmodernchina.org/images/introduction/essay/warhol.jpgInspired from Warhol | |  | | Art with a Heart 82-84 George Street Altrincham WA14 1RF  www.artwithaheart.org.uk | |