



FORM CHASER

Scrap of the gods

We all like to recycle, right? It feels like we're doing our bit. Even a trip to the tip has a certain kind of weekend joy.

But where you see rubbish, Edouard Martinet sees something completely different. The French artist uses scrap metal and parts to create artistic sculptures.

When he was ten years old, one of his teachers introduced him to insects and,

as with most ten-year-old boys, he was fascinated. The difference with Martinet is that he never grew out of that fascination. Forty years on and he's now the art world's premier – and only? – virtuoso insectophile.

He transforms bits and pieces of cast-off junk culled from flea markets and car boot sales into exquisitely executed creations.

If six-legged creatures aren't your bag, Martinet has expanded his portfolio to

include everything from freshwater fish to life-sized ostriches. Whether it's a matter of weeks – or in the case of one project, 17 years – each piece shows his ever-creative eye and impeccable attention to detail.

Prices start around the £10k mark – not too shabby for a load of old tat. **H** To see more of Martinet's work go to *Sladmore Contemporary*, 32 Bruton Place, W1J 6NW; 020 7499 0365; sladmorecontemporary.com