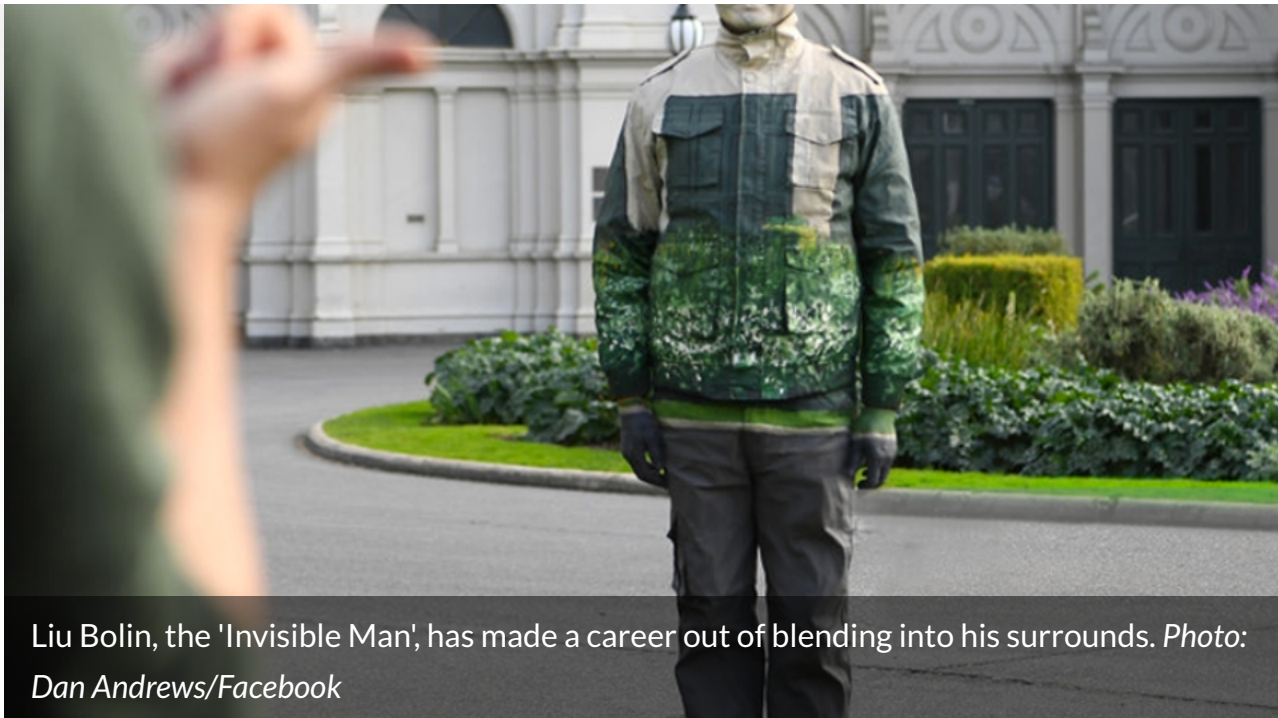


ENTERTAINMENT • ARTS •

10:45pm, Aug 27, 2019 Updated: 10:46pm, Aug 27

# The Chinese artist who has lived a life as the 'Invisible Man'



Liu Bolin, the 'Invisible Man', has made a career out of blending into his surrounds. Photo: Dan Andrews/Facebook



Matt Johnson

@matte\_johnson

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Who knew a disappearing act could look so compelling?

**Chinese social activist Liu Bolin** has made a career out of vanishing into a multitude of surrounds, and now, the 'Invisible Man' has appeared in Australia for the first time.

The artist's carefully crafted self-portraits, which see him

covered in intricate body-painted designs, have been a staple of the international art scene for more than two decades.

Bolin's first works were produced in a former Chinese artists precinct that was destroyed by the country's government.

It's a form of protest against the Chinese government's tense relationship with its citizens – or 'the forgotten people' – and his commentary on the country's recovery from the Cultural Revolution.

Bolin has collaborated with esteemed artists including Jean Paul Gaultier, Annie Leibovitz and Jon Bon Jovi, and produced commissions for the United Nations.

An exhibition of 50 of his chameleon-like works is featuring as the centrepiece of this year's Ballarat International Foto Biennale, in country Victoria.

But before its opening last weekend, the Chinese artist had the chance to construct a final piece in front of Melbourne's Royal Exhibition Building.

**Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews says** he fell victim to the city's notably frenetic pace and sporadic weather conditions.

The Chinese artist has camouflaged himself among an array of different surrounds, including vibrant balloons.

"He can place himself in front of almost anything and make himself invisible. Provided it doesn't move," Mr Andrews wrote on Facebook.

“True to form, Melbourne’s weather kept changing – meaning more shades of paint had to be layered onto Liu’s face and clothes to match the sunlight.

“Seagulls, trucks and tourists kept getting in frame – but six hours later, the photographer finally got the shot.”

The artist’s work is [on display until October 20](#), but you might want to take your opportunity early – it might take some time for you to actually spot the ‘Invisible Man’.

The Chinese artist is in Australia for the first time to promote his exhibition at the Ballarat International Foto Biennale in Victoria.



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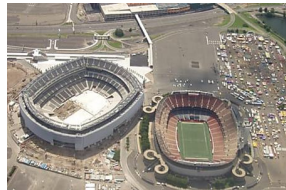


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12:02am, Sep 2, 2019 Updated: 9:17pm, Sep 1

# **Pain-killer poisoning on the rise: Experts want access to paracetamol restricted**





The number of Australians with toxic liver disease caused by paracetamol overdose has more than doubled. *Photo: Getty*



John Elder Science Editor

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Researchers are calling for access to Australia's most commonly used painkiller, paracetamol, to be restricted – because of a serious spike in numbers of people being hospitalised with paracetamol poisoning.

Between 2007 and 2017, nearly 100,000 Australians were treated in hospital after overdosing on the over-the-counter medicine that is available in supermarkets and convenience stores.

The number of tablets being consumed by Australians has increased by a third from 2004 to 2017. Paracetamol is the substance most frequently involved in overdoses in Australia.

According to a paper published this week in the *Medical Journal of Australia*, the annual number of paracetamol poisoning cases has increased by 44.3 per cent since 2007-2008 – and the number of cases of toxic liver diseases due to paracetamol

overdose has more than doubled.

The authors write: “Paracetamol is the drug most frequently taken in overdose in Australia. Large amounts can be purchased without prescription, whereas many European countries have reduced the incidence of paracetamol-related harm by restricting pack sizes.”

The researchers, led by Dr Rose Cairns, director of research at the NSW Poisons Information Centre and the University of Sydney, wrote that public health measures that restrict the availability of paracetamol, such as reducing non-prescription pack sizes, are needed to stem the increasing number of paracetamol overdoses.

A significant number of those overdoses – more than 20 per cent – were apparently intentional, mainly among older people.

After analysing data on paracetamol-related exposures, hospital admissions, and deaths from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare National Hospital Morbidity Database, (2007-08 to 2016-17), the NSW Poisons Information Centre (2004-2017), and the National Coronial Information System (2007-08 to 2016-17), Dr Cairns and colleagues found that:

- There were 95,668 admissions with paracetamol poisoning diagnoses (2007-08 to 2016-17)
- The annual number of cases increased by 44.3 per cent during the study period
- Toxic liver disease was documented for 1816 of these patients; the annual number increased by 108 per cent during the study period – or 7.7 per cent per year
- Most paracetamol overdoses – about 70 per cent – involved women

- The NSWPIC database included 22,997 reports of intentional overdose with paracetamol
- The annual number of intentional overdoses increased by 77 per cent during the study period
- The median number of tablets consumed by Australians increased from 15 in 2004 to 20 in 2017
- 126 in-hospital deaths were recorded in the NHMD, and 205 deaths (in and out of hospital) in the NCIS
- The median age of patients in the NSWPIC database was 18 years
- The median age in cases of fatal overdoses recorded in the NCIS was higher (53 years), perhaps reflecting greater suicidal intent in overdoses by older people or the presence of other conditions that increased the risk of liver injury

“Access restrictions, including reduced pack sizes, could reduce the harm caused by paracetamol overdoses in Australia, and should be considered, together with other policy changes, to curb this growing problem,” Dr Cairns and colleagues concluded.

They offer the following observation: In the wake of increasing numbers of overdoses, liver transplantations and deaths, and evidence that paracetamol overdose is often impulsive (taking medications already in the home), paracetamol pack sizes have been restricted in the UK since 1998 to 8 grams for non-pharmacy sales and to 16 grams for pharmacy sales (formerly 50 grams).

“The approach appeared effective, as the number of large paracetamol-related overdoses, liver unit admissions and suicide deaths in England and Wales subsequently declined.”

In 2017, researchers from Edinburgh University studied the



impact of paracetamol on liver cells in human and mouse tissue.

Their experiments showed in certain settings, the drug can damage the liver by harming vital structural connections between adjacent cells in the organ.

When these cell-wall connections, known as tight junctions, are disrupted, the liver tissue structure is damaged, cells are unable to function properly and they may die.

This type of cell damage is known to occur in liver conditions including hepatitis, cirrhosis and cancer, but until now it was not linked to paracetamol toxicity.

They concluded that “even taking one or two more tablets than recommended can cause serious liver damage and possibly death”.

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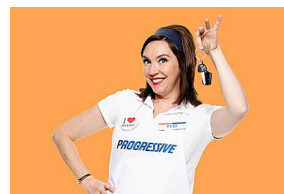
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