

Exhibit announcement: Varvara Shavrova 'The Opera' screened @ ShanghaiContemporary, Video Loop, daily at 17:00 , 7-10th September 2011



Image: Varvara Shavrova 'The Opera' screen still, video , 17 mins, 2010-2011

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SELECTIONS FOR THE LEAP/SH CONTEMPORARY VIDEO PROGRAM

Varvara Shavrova

The Opera

2010-2011

17:00

简介：《京剧》对中国最珍贵和最原本的艺术形式进行了一种革命性的探索，是对京剧所展现的古代乌托邦世界的一种观望。Shavrova通过此作品探讨了当代中国社会传统和现代文化中的性别和个人身份认同。

影片描写了在京剧演出的后台准备上台的两位京剧演员，一位是男旦（男演员唱女声），一位是老生（女演员唱男声）；通过他们的化妆和角色演变过程，展示了传统艺术和现代艺术的对比，更加寓意了在当今中国社会中对这种性别的角色转换的一种新的开放态度。

The Opera is a revolutionary investigation into one of China's most

treasured and revered art forms, the traditional Peking opera. As well as looking into the archaic and often utopian world of the opera, Shavrova investigates issues of sexuality and personal identity as they are manifested by both traditional and contemporary culture in modern day China.

Presented through the prism of gender bending artists, the film portrays "behind the scenes" cameos from the lives of two young traditional Peking Opera actors: a "Nan Dan" singer (a male artist performing exclusively female roles), and traditional Shanghai opera "Lao Sheng" characters (performed by a female Peking opera artist singing exclusively male roles).

The film not only addresses the issues of traditional versus contemporary theatre art form, but also focuses on a new openness versus traditional taboos associated with homosexuality in modern day Chinese culture.

http://www.shcontemporary.info/en/projects_events/video_room

http://www.shcontemporary.info/en/about/sh_contemporary_2011

<http://www.varvarashavrova.com>