

Pékin Fine Arts & Gallery 49 Varvara Shavrova (b. Moscow, Russian/Irish) Solo Exhibit: Press Release

Update on Feb 25, 2010

**“WINDOWS ON THE HUTONG”, Varvara Shavrova’s Solo
Exhibit**

Gallery 49, Beijing, China

14 Mar – 05 May, 2010



Varvara Shavrova / Windows on Hutong – Fish Tank / Light box with sound / 2010 / 77 x 65
cm

**Opening Reception for Russian-Irish artist Varvara Shavrova's
solo Exhibit at Gallery49 in Cooperation with Pékin Fine Arts
and supported by the Embassy of Ireland, Beijing:**

Mar 14, 2010, from 4 to 6 pm. ALL WELCOME!

*Exhibition will be open by HE Mr Declan Kelleher, Ambassador of
Ireland to the P.R. of China*

Windows on The Hutong is a new photo and sound installation by Russian-born and Beijing and Ireland-based artist Varvara Shavrova. The project is conceived as a multi-sensory portrait of old Beijing neighbourhoods where Shavrova has been living for the past five years.

Rich and colorful images of windows illuminated by life and sound inside shows us glimpses of daily life in the old hutongs, where one feels the changes sweeping through the rest of the capital city have not yet come.

Today Beijing is undergoing intense modernization and whole neighbourhoods like the street where Shavrova lives are swept away within days to give way to new high rise developments. But some of the old laneways remain untouched, with the slow medieval rhythm of life still ticking on inside its traditional courtyards. The light boxes almost imitate the windows Shavrova photographs, framed closely around the actual window frame and presented on a wall space, they illuminate life and light just like the real windows one passes by and gets a glimpse and a momentary encounter with someone else's daily life.

The sound installed directly next to the images intensifies this feeling of being submerged into a slice of real Beijing. The bicycle passes by, locals line up to buy some freshly fried dough sticks, old gentlemen play cards and chess, baby is crying inside the bedroom, billiards balls move softly

along the table cloths, food is being prepared, chopped and fried for someone's dinner.

The sound and images were recorded on October 1st 2009, on the date when the whole of China celebrated the 60th Anniversary of the foundation of the People's Republic. Televisions all over the country and in the local hutongs too transmitted the proud sights and sounds of the military parade followed by lavish fireworks display and celebration concert.

The significance of this date and the artist's choice is obvious. When the rest of the country is doing big and ambitious things, life on local level continues unperturbed, and changes will take a while to arrive here.

Varvara Shavrova
Beijing
January 2010

For further information and images, please see our website or contact us.
www.pekinfinearts.com

Gallery hours: 10 to 6 pm daily. Mon and Tues by appointment only.

Add: No.241 Cao Chang Di Village, Cui Ge Zhuang, Chaoyang District, Beijing, China
100015

Pékin Fine Arts
Office Manager
Amy Wang

Tel: + 86 10 5127 3220

Fax: + 86 10 5127 3223

Email: amy@pekinfinearts.com
info@pekinfinearts.com