

MoronoKiangGallery

Bradbury Building
218 West 3rd Street
Los Angeles, CA 90013
† 213.628.8208
f 213.628.8207
www.moronokiang.com
Contact: Sonia Mak, sonia@moronokiang.com

Between the Borders: New Works by Varvara Shavrova

Exhibition: January 24 through March 28, 2009

'The sole cause of man's unhappiness is that he does not know how to stay quietly in his room.'

- Pascal, *Penseés*, 136

Morono Kiang Gallery is proud to present the United States debut of Varvara Shavrova, a Russian-born, Beijing-based artist.

Varvara Shavrova's newest paintings and video work are set against the backdrop of the longest border in the world, shared between Russia and China. Along the seam of this vast expanse of land, the artist explores the metaphysical terrain of her own global nomadism—from Russia, England, Namibia, South Africa, and Ireland to China. And it is through this meandering exploration that she aims to investigate the power of borders themselves.

Based on video footage the artist shot while riding on a moving train across the countryside, Shavrova's paintings re-interpret stills of blurred trees amidst a transitory landscape. Nature seems to pulse with a nervous kinetic energy in a predominantly monochromatic palette framed by bold stripes of somber color.

The goal of Shavrova's project is to posit the existence of a contemporary reality that cannot be bound by borders. In a world of contested space inscribed by myriad competing powers, the artist finds a clearing where the border loses its structure and, thus, its resonance. In this moment where the border is divested of its power, fears about national conflict, political rivalry, and the contest for land lose their grip.

In effect, Shavrova examines the lasting imprint that borders—physical, political, cultural, and historical—contribute to our own notions of freedom and

belonging.

A fully illustrated catalogue 'Between the Borders: New Works by Varvara Shavrova' published by Morono Kiang Gallery (\$15) is available at the gallery

Morono Kiang Gallery occupies over 3,000 square feet of exhibition space, located on the ground floor of the historic Bradbury Building in downtown Los Angeles. The gallery promotes cutting-edge contemporary Chinese art, exhibiting work by both recognized and emerging artists.