

GOVERNMENT OF MOSCOW CITY
CULTURAL COMMITTEE MOSCOW
RUSSIAN ACADEMY OF ART
MOSCOW MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Present the project by
Varvara Shavrova

“BORDERS”

From the 11th April to the 6th of May the Moscow Museum of Modern Art in Ermolaevsky lane, 17, will present the exhibition project by Varvara Shavrova, “BORDERS”. The exhibition is conceived as a complete installation that includes large-scale graphic drawings, video, documentary and landscape photography, all linked together by the theme of connection of the two territories and the two cultures of the East and the North.

One day, whilst browsing through a cartography department of one of the London bookshops, Varvara Shavrova found very interesting maps of Russia-China border territories, that immediately attracted her both from visual and thematic perspectives. This set of flying charts made for air pilots was compiled by the US ministry of defence in the 80ies and 90ies and illustrated the Russia-China border territories in great detail. Previously classified information, these maps were published and became available to general public.

These maps attracted the artist's attention not only as rare and interesting historical material, but also as an aesthetic find, as a delicate and beautiful object. Whilst studying the maps in greater detail, Varvara Shavrova discovered the notes reading “border unclear” and “border in dispute”. When the meaning of the notes became clear, forbidding the pilots to fly over the disputed border areas under the threat of being shot down, the other, more menacing context contained within the maps, became apparent.

Having become fascinated by the subject, Shavrova undertook train and bus journeys in the Russia-China border regions. Basing her project on the material collected during these journeys, the “BORDERS” exhibition project was created for the Moscow Museum of Modern Art. The actuality of this project coincides with the actuality of the Russian-Chinese theme, during the period when the eyes of the whole world are directed towards these two countries, and when China is experiencing an incredible economic boom.

Varvara Shavrova is a young Russian artist with an international biography. Varvara grew up and was educated in Moscow, then spent many years living in London, where her professional career was formed. Having lived in Europe for over 15 years, she led an active creative life, participating in many exhibitions, teaching art in art colleges and lecturing in universities. In 2005 Shavrova moved to China, where she now lives and works. Her exhibitions include over 20 solo exhibitions in London, Dublin, Frankfurt, Beijing and other cities; she participated in many group exhibitions around the world; she received a number of international awards and fellowships; her works can be found in a number of public collections in London, Staffordshire, Essex, Oxford. This Spring Varvara Shavrova's “Borders” project will be presented in Moscow for the first time. “Borders” project, Shavrova's first solo exhibition in Russia, will also be presented at the Moscow Museum of Modern Art during the Year of China in Russia.

The project is supported by: AGEY TOMESH, ARTISTIC DESIGN, PATRICK HEIDE ART PROJECTS LONDON, BAMAS, AEROFLOT, TRANSAERO, AIR UNION

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Opening Ceremony: 10th April 2007 at 6pm at the Moscow Museum of Modern Art in Ermolaevsky lane, 17

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Exhibition is open to the public at the Moscow Museum of Modern Art in Ermolaevsky lane, 17, from 11th April to 6th May 2007