

VARVARA SHAVROVA

I N T E R F E R E N C E S

OPENING: SATURDAY APRIL 29TH – 17:00-20:00

APRIL 29TH - MAY 21ST 2006 TUE-SUN – 12:00-19:00

offiCina – 2 JIUXIANQIAO RD. (INSIDE 798)
CHAoyANG DISTRICT BEIJING - CHINA

During the 3rd Dashanzi International Art Festival - Beijing/Background, offiCina presents a series of photos and details from the project 'Interferences' by Varvara Shavrova - a Russian-born, London and Ireland-based artist who is now living and working in Beijing.

The artist's paintings, drawings and installations reflect on the relationship between landscape, time and memory. Her past and present projects include collaborations with archaeologists in the UK and Ireland and encapsulate the experience of historical and archaeological excavation, layering, revealing, mapping, recording and preserving.

In 2003 Shavrova started her collaboration with archaeologists involved in excavations and research project investigating landscape and archaeology at Shovel Down Bronze Age site in Dartmoor National Park in Devon, England. In 2004 and 2005 Shavrova was invited to work as Artist-in Residence at Shovel Down, where she researched into processes of archaeological drawing and recording.

During her residency at Shovel Down in July 2005 Shavrova selected, observed and recorded excavations of four different trenches. One of the trenches appeared to be empty, the other contained a large natural lythic (stone), the third was full of naturally occurring stones, and the fourth might have contained a section of a man-made stone wall. Once the excavations were complete, Shavrova responded to the layout and contents of the trenches and created a series of four site-specific installations.

'Interferences' investigate the process of archaeological excavation and present interference with the earth as a process comparable to medical surgery performed on human body involving cutting, removing, cleaning and stitching back. Using archaeological tools found on site and routinely implemented by archaeologists including pins, tape and string, Shavrova wrapped, pinned and sewed the stones, the turf and the earth, and created a three dimensional *in situ* installations that reflected on the dynamic juxtapositions between natural and man-made elements of archaeological processes.

The installations were documented in detail and viewed by visitors to the Dartmoor National Park and the Shovel Down over a period of 72 hours, after which they were dismantled.

The exhibition at offiCina studio presents documentation of this project. A parallel exhibition of Shavrova's works produced at Shovel Down starts in May 2006 at the Moorlands Museum at the Dartmoor National Park in Devon, England. Shavrova's residency at Shovel Down is an on-going project continuing through 2008 and will be culminating in a publication and touring exhibition.

Now living in Beijing, Shavrova is aiming to respond to her new location through her work. She is currently working on the research stage of a new project based on the Beijing city map and reflecting on dynamic and rapid changes that are dramatically re-shaping the geography and infrastructure of the city and its map. Together with the artist, Chinese curator Feng Boyi, Monica Piccioni and Rosario Scarpato from offiCina are currently co-curating the project that will culminate with a group exhibition in 2008 in Beijing and tour China and abroad.

As a background experience of the artist relating to human intervention on territory before her arrival in China, 'Interferences' highlights the essence of Shavrova's artistic research and connects to her new interest in exploring Beijing's tense transformations. The city itself is also the focus of a new series of drawing installations and paintings she is producing at the moment that display her personal response to the new environment as well as a continuity with her previous practice.

During the opening Italian refreshments will be offered by GUSTOMENTA.

More info:

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