

PORTRAITS OF CHINA
Photography - Anaïs Martane
Accompanying text by - Diane Droin-Michaud

curated by Marie Terrieux
As part of Croisements Festival

18th April, 2009 – 25th May, 2009
Opening 18th April, 3-8PM



'Portraits of China' is a reflection on the pluralities of China; of the men and women who make what China is today: a country of many faces.

A seller of kebabs, a young factory worker in Guangdong, a psychoanalyst in Chengdu, a farmer from Ningxia or a rock star... the lens of Anaïs Martane's Mamiya captures them subtly and sensitively, telling each of their unique stories.

Accompanied by journalist Diane Droin-Michaud, the young photographer travelled widely across China throughout 2007 documenting faces of various expressions: smiling, sad, pensive... Each of the portraits is captured in its own daily environment, whether personal or professional. The text of Diane Droin-Michaud echoes each of the images, allowing viewers not only to discover more about China, but to slip for an instant into the dreams or observations of each protagonist.

Both thoughtful and precise, her work pays tribute to the various characters that are uncovered in this exhibition.

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image1 (300dpi • 23.62x23.73cm • 2.2MB)

Anais Martane "Zhao Wei – estate agent under pressure" • c-print • 2008 • 110x110cm
www.press.ifa-gallery.com/portraits/china/zhaowei.jpg

image2 (300dpi • 23.62x23.75cm • 2.4MB)

Anais Martane, "Zhang Lingling – a worker's dream" • c-print • 2007 • 110x110cm
www.press.ifa-gallery.com/portraits/china/zhanglingling.jpg

image3 (300dpi • 23.62x23.59cm • 1.8MB)

Anais Martane, "Yu Changbing – peasant turned potter" • c-print • 2007 • 110x110cm
www.press.ifa-gallery.com/portraits/china/yuchangbing.jpg

image4 (300dpi • 23.62x23.62cm • 1.8MB)

Anais Martane, "Yue Minjun – or the art of taking nothing seriously" • c-print • 2007 • 110x110cm
www.press.ifa-gallery.com/portraits/china/yueminjun.jpg

Anaïs Martane

Anaïs Martane was born in 1979. Thirteen years ago she boldly decided to study Chinese in senior high school, in Nice. Later graduating from Langues'O, China brought to her the language of photography and she had her first exhibition *Chine, tu bouges?* in 2001 after a six month stint at Beijing Normal University.



She has been a resident in Beijing for seven years, and she has no plans to leave. Since 2002 she has been involved as a photographer and scout for the young photo agency *Traffic d'Images*, and her work has been varied: French and International press, corporate, still photographer and accompanying Chinese photographers at Arles...

Later, she started a project on the traces of Jews in China - Harbin, Shanghai and Kaifeng using both the mediums of photography and video documentary. This culminated in an exhibition on the subject of Jews living in Shanghai during WWII, which was shown in *La Maison de la Chine* during the winter of 2005-2006. Rosen Films, a French film production company, supported this work.

Anaïs began to focus on portraiture in 2004 and his principally worked in this form ever since. The majority of her press photography has been for TIME magazine as well as *Elle*, *Libération*, *Telerama*, *Le Monde*.

Chinese Portraits is her first book, published in both French and English and distributed worldwide. *Chinese and Jews* will follow. In April 2009, *Portraits of China* will be exhibited as part of the *Croisements* Festival in Beijing (Pékin Fine Arts) and Shanghai (ifa gallery).

artist page:

Anaïs Martane.....ifa-gallery.com/artists/amartane

ifa gallery was established in May 2006 in a 700sqm converted textile factory space in Moganshan Road - m50 Creative Centre – Shanghai's contemporary art district. With a quality exhibition programme of principally Chinese contemporary art, and a supporting line-up of performance, cinema and musical events, the gallery contributed to the dynamism of the area. Major exhibitions during that time include the solo shows of Park Sung-Tae (Korea) and sought-after young artist Liu Bolin (China).

In September 2008, ifa relocated to new premises, a grand residence built in 1923 for a dignitary of the British Customs House. The gallery offers an innovative and artistic angle to the central part of the city and acts as an artistic meeting point for contemporary art in Shanghai.

ifa gallery exhibits contemporary art from Asia with a focus on Chinese art. The gallery is also oriented towards South East Asian art, and the work of artists, regardless of origin, that have a specific influence or association with Asia. We represent both established artists such as Dai Guangyu, a leading figure of China's avant-garde, and the Gao Brothers; as well as emerging artists, including recent graduates of the fine arts schools in Beijing and Hangzhou. ifa presents work in a wide range of media formats, from painting to photography, video, installation and performance.

ifa's international team presents and supports artists that have an original language and means of expression, that shy away from clichés and conventions and that have strong concepts and artistic vision.

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