

PORTRAITS OF CHINA – BLUE PRINT ASIA

PULSE SIGHTS & SOUNDS

ALEX MARTANA

CHINA

Portraits of China

What does a self of laborer, a factory worker from Guiyang, a farmer from Ningxia, a post-graduate from Chengde, a dodging young model have in common? They are all subjects from varying regions of China who have respectively been captured through the lens of Alex Martana's latest *Portraits of China*. Martana's artistic exhibition at the gallery in Shanghai centered in March, offers one an up close, in very personal encounters with



men and women who constitute China's undigitized plebeian population. The candid images, each set within the confines of the subject's personal or professional environment, starkly proclaim Martana's sensitivity to apprehending split-second details as the camera indelicately documents the protagonists in the midst of sharing their stories – narratives that are all distinctively Chinese.



A permanent resident of Beijing for the past seven years, China was an otherworldly place that peaked Martana's interest early on, beginning in her high school days in Nice when the curious young student opted to study the Chinese language. Some years later, a six-month stint at Beijing Normal University introduced Martana to the photographic medium, leading to her first exhibition *China in August* in 2005. Martana's first book titled *China: Portraits*, published in both French and English, currently enjoys worldwide distribution while samples of her press work can regularly be found in prestigious publications such as *TIME* magazine and *ELLE*. *Portraits of China* is scheduled to run from now until May 24.

www.ifagallery.com/Exhibitions/Portraits

- ▶ *Two Deaths*, a new author 2007 (Woodfin edition of \$)
- ▶ *Apple* (Apple) November 2007 (Woodfin edition of \$)
- ▶ *No Champagne* (L'Espresso) March 2007 (Woodfin edition of \$)
- ▶ *Black Ink*, the featured artist 2007 (Woodfin edition of \$)
- ▶ *The Wings*, or the art of being nothing (Woodfin edition of \$)
- ▶ *Can You Hear the Heartbeat* (Woodfin edition of \$)