



VARVARA SHAVROVA

Born in the USSR, Varvara Shavrova is a visual artist who lives and works in London and Dublin. In engaging memory, nostalgia and reflection, Shavrova creates installations that make connections between historic and current narratives.

2021/22 PhD Research through practice at the School of Arts & Humanities, Royal College of Art, London

Winner of the London Arts & Humanities Partnership AHRC fully funded research Studentship

2016-2019 Masters' Degree with Merit (MFA Fine Art), Goldsmiths, University of London

1987-1990 Diploma, Fine and Art and Graphic Design, Moscow State University of Printing Arts

During her five years in Beijing, Varvara Shavrova got the chance to observe the innermost aspects of Chinese culture, which translated into two of her main works, "The Opera" and "Windows on Hutong". The former consists of a video featuring composer Benoit Granier's soundtrack. "The Opera" is an insight into the intimate spaces of the Peking Opera actors and actresses, where they undergo a transformation from male to hyper-female and vice versa. By the video, the viewer can recognize a contemporary face, with whom he can empathize and relate, leaving them to wonder who the real person behind the mask is. On the other hand, "Windows on Hutong" underscores the intense modernization process Beijing is going through. Each photo is accompanied by different audios the artist recorded in the *hutong* in 2009. Shavrova believes the audience needs to pay attention to the destruction of *hutong* and the impact it has on Chinese cultural heritage.



EXHIBITIONS

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS AND PROJECTS

Inna's Dream, The Battle of Britain Air Show, Imperial War Museum Duxford, Cambridge, UK, 2021

Reflections on Haw Lantern, site-specific installation at Seamus Heaney HomePlace, Bellaghy, N.Ireland, 2017

The Opera, MOMENTUM Berlin and Temple Beijing Cultural Centre, Beijing, China, 2016

Windows on Dublin and Beijing, Open House Dublin in collaboration with Broadstone studios, Dublin, 2014

Untouched , Ballina Civic Offices, Ballina, Co. Mayo, Ireland, 2012

The Opera special commission & site specific installation, Espacio Cultural El Tanque, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, 2011

Marriage Proposal project, Intrude 266, Zengdai MOMA, Shanghai, 2008

Borders, Moscow Museum of Modern Art and Rumyantsev Palace, Museum of the History of St.Petersburg, 2007

Interferences OffiCina Studio, Factory 798, 3rd Dashanzi International Art Festival, Beijing, 2006

Mapping an Island (with Nicola Rae), Patrick Heide Art Projects, London, 2003

Monotypes and Other Prints 1996-1999, Vital Arts at The Barts Hospital NHS Trust, London, 2001

Passion Grace and Fire, Blains Fine Art, London, 1998

Porthleven, Curwen Gallery, London, 1996

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

Art from Elsewhere Works from the MOMENTUM Collection Curated by Rachel Rits Volloch and Emilio Rappana, Kunsthaus Ansbach, Ansbach, Germany, 2021

COVIDecameron: 19 Artists from the MOMENTUM Collection 10th Anniversary Online Exhibition, 2020

The Sea is the Limit, in collaboration with The 8th Biennial Hamad bin Khalifa Symposium on Islamic Art, 2019

Red October, special event and project presentation, National College of Art & Design (NCAD), Dublin, 2017

The Opera installation at Inaugural Chinjiang Chongqing Biennale of Photography and Video Art, Chinjiang Contemporary Art Museum, Chongqing, China, 2015

The Opera installation at 'Across Chinese Cities: Beijing' collateral project exhibition, Arsenale 100, Venice Biennale of Architecture curated by Rem Koolhaas, 2014

New Irish Landscapes curated by Tanya Kiang , Three Shadows Photography Arts Centre, Beijing, China, 2013

The Opera screened at THE LEAP Shanghai Contemporary Video Program curated by Phillip Tinari, Shanghai, 2011

Map Games: Dynamics of Change. Art and architecture from Beijing, international touring exhibition curated by Feng Boyi, Varvara Shavrova and offiCina(Beijing), Today Art Museum, Beijing; Birmingham, 2008-2009

Borders screenings, Photoquai festival of non-European photography and video, Theatre Claude Levi-Strauss, Musee du Quai Branly, Paris, 2007

Portraits and Still Lives installation at China- Chai-na exhibition, 706 Space, 3rd Dashanzi International Arts Festival, Factory 798, Beijing, 2006

Drawing and Sculpture, Ashford Gallery, Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin, 2003

Summer exhibition, Blains Fine Art, London, 1999

Fever, Painting show, Blains Fine Art, London, 1998



PRESS & AWARDS

燃点 **Ran Dian**

RanDian, April 2016:

The Opera by Varvara Shavrova

http://www.randian-online.com/np_announcement/the-opera-by-varvara-shavrova/



China Daily Europe, February 2014, Cecily Liu:

Days and nights at The Opera

http://europe.chinadaily.com.cn/epaper/2014-02/21/content_17295783.htm

ARTFORUM

ARTFORUM, February 2012, Gemma Tipton:

CRITICS' PICKS

<https://www.artforum.com/picks/varvara-shavrova-30269>

Varvara Shavrova 'Windows on the Hutong' Press Release:

<http://varvarashavrova.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Press-Release.pdf>

Interview with Varvara Shavrova – UNTOUCHED, Carla Nayton:

http://varvarashavrova.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Article-Varvara-Shavrova_cc-2.pdf

Selected Awards:

Bursary Award in Visual Arts, Arts Council Ireland, 2021

Visual Arts COVID-19 Response Award, Arts Council Ireland, 2020

National Lottery Project Award, Arts Council England, 2019-2020

Culture Ireland Award, The Opera exhibition at MOMENTUM Berlin and Temple Beijing, 2015-16

Culture Ireland Award, The Opera installation at the Venice Biennale of Architecture, Italy, 2014

Visual Arts Award, Irish Chinese Stories project, Dublin City Council, 2013

Culture Ireland award, Mirrors on the Opera, curated by Tanya Kiang, Pingyao International Photography Festival, Pingyao Ancient City, Shanxi province, China, 2012

Grant to Individual Artists, London Visual Arts Fund, London Arts, 2002-2003

Go & See Portugal The Prince's Trust Artists' Travelling & Working Award, Portugal, 1994

Opening Up Spaces Travelling and Working Award, European Artists' Workshop, Ettesburg Castle and ACC Gallerie, Weimar, Germany, 1993





Windows on Hutong – Half Grill, Varvara Shavrova



Opera, Varvara Shavrova, 2010

CONTACTS

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Tue-Sat 1-6 pm

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Migrant Bird Space is a Berlin & Beijing-based art foundation and gallery, providing a showcase for artists as well as art agency services in China & Europe. Working out of the gallery space at Koppenplatz in the heart of Berlin, the foundation offers a professional platform for cross-cultural communication between China and Europe with a focus on contemporary Chinese art. Promoting both established and emerging artists, Migrant Birds provides gallery spaces for exhibitions in Beijing and Berlin, an artist-in-residence program, regular talks and lectures, as well as support in liaising with Museums, universities, private institutions and more.

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