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EAST MEETS WEST

The word is out. If you are not buying Chinese art, what are you waiting for?

WELCOME TO 2007, ANOTHER YEAR OF MAGENTA MAGAZINE AND A TRIBUTE TO CHINA AND CHINESE PHOTOGRAPHERS.

My fascination with China is not “of-the-moment.” I have long been a crusader for the meticulous attention the Chinese pay to detail, the subtle lines in their designs and their unique fashion sense. I also have a fascination with reading books from back to front, a childhood habit that is now entrenched in my perusal of all books and magazines.

For me, China is all about the youth or, as I like to call them, the Internet generation—a new, sophisticated group of creatives and style-makers taking control. It is these young people—their likes and dislikes, hopes and fears—that will shape China’s future and build the country into an entrepreneurial society.

In putting together this issue, we came across a surprising fact about China—its population is 1,319,175,350 and counting (and here I thought New York was bad!); about 630 million of them are under the age of 24. That’s more than the entire population of the U.S., Russia, Canada and Australia combined. How’s that for paying attention to youth?



Our cover story and pride and joy this year is none other than our very own Greg Girard, a Vancouver native living in Shanghai. My first introduction to Greg’s work came from attending a show he did two years ago at the Monte Clark Gallery in Toronto. My associate Clare Jordan and I immediately knew we had to look into this project further. Not only did we feel his photographs were an important body of work coming out of Shanghai, we were mesmerized by the relationship Greg had with his home and the intimate way he allowed us to become part of his thoughts, experiences and wanderings. “Phantom Shanghai” is a look at a Shanghai that no longer exists. This historical tribute is for all the Chinese people who are losing a part of their history.

Also in this issue, we pay tribute to Chinese photographers Qui Zhijie, Weng Fen and Guo Yang. Zhijie is probably one of the most well-known Chinese artists, popular for his work with calligraphy and photography. Here, we bring you a few new pieces acquired exclusively for us with the help of our new contributor this month, Debra Klomp Ching. Special thanks to Helen Chen from Chambers Fine Art in New York for this amazing opportunity.

China has transformed itself from the world’s greatest opponent of globalization into a committed advocate. At *Magenta Magazine*, we keep our eyes on the East and see how it continues to influence and inspire the West.

—MARYANN CAMILLERI

