

Kate Anderson's new photographic works reflect her recent experiences living and working in the city of Beijing at a time of the city's unprecedented transformation. In the first decade of the new millennium a sizable proportion of the city is being made anew. In preparation for the 2008 Olympic Games, Beijing, like nowhere on earth is buzzing.

Much has been written about the city under its current conditions – the razing of the old buildings and the rising new apartment blocks, the blossoming of unheard of personal wealth, not to mention the outpouring of artistic responses in this hothouse of social and political change.

Given such conditions one might easily wonder how daily life is created, let alone maintained, in the sprawling Chinese capital. To answer this question one need look no further than Anderson's new series which explores the neighbourhoods of Tuanjiehu, in the vicinity of the diplomatic and bar districts, and Bei Gao on the relative outskirts of town. In Anderson's photos what is revealed beyond the ubiquitous tales of change and transformation is a no less tenacious and decidedly Chinese manner of existence. In the laneways and doorways of the apartment blocks Anderson has noted numerous examples of improvised and resourceful existence. Letter boxes that a more affluent society would have long discarded are proudly mended and pressed into service. Alternatively in domestic interiors, ancient Chinese bowls are roughly mended using heavy iron staples with little thought other than robust practicality.

Devoid of human presence, Anderson's work is surprisingly contemplative. Her attention is drawn to the wonderful collisions of domestic activity. Akin to a surrealist collage, these accidents of daily life generate their own random meanings. Studying the encrusted walls of the neighbourhood Anderson has noted examples of stencilled graffiti, such as a Communist Party five point star, which appears in countless guises and colours. At times it accompanies a slogan but mostly its application seems a strangely random event. Anderson's work responds to the pleasures of arbitrarily generated pairings. Her work highlights the uncannily human ability to find beauty in the least likely of places.

Damian Smith, 2008



Shamian Island, Guangzhou 广州沙面岛



Chaoyang District, Tuanjiehu Bei Kou Beijing 北京朝阳区团结湖北口



Chaoyang District, Tuanjiehu Bei Kou Beijing 北京朝阳区团结湖北口



Chaoyang District, Tuanjiehu Bei Kou Beijing 北京朝阳区团结湖北口

C.A.P.
China Art Projects
中国艺术项目

KATE ANDERSON
凯特·安德森

SIGHT



New Studios, Beigao 北皋新工作室



Apartment 303 Beijing 北京303公寓



Cuandixia 'Ming' Village 爨底下村"明"村



Cuandixia 'Ming' Village 爨底下村"明"村



Cuandixia 'Ming' Village 爨底下村"明"村



Cuandixia 'Highest Village' 爨底下村"最高村"

The series "Sight, Seen, Star, Boxed" is a visual documentation of time spent in China by Australian artist Kate Anderson. It is a personal view reflecting her experience as 'Artist in residence' on two occasions with the Red Gate Gallery Beijing and other travels in China spanning a fifteen year period. Her work as an artist includes painting, collage and digital collage. By spending substantial periods of time in China there is a certain cultural interaction and influence that is undeniably present. As a 'non professional' photographer she is recording images which speak to her of a country that holds much fascination, frustration but ultimately, excitement and the sense of discovery.



Apartment 303 Electrics, Tuanjiehu 团结湖303公寓电表箱



Apartment 303 TV, Tuanjiehu 团结湖303公寓电视闭路



Apartment 402 Tuanjiehu Bei Kou 团结湖北口402公寓



Shanghai 上海

C.A.P.
China Art Projects
中国艺术项目

KATE ANDERSON
凯特·安德森

SEEN



Shamian Island, Guangzhou 广州沙面岛



Apartment 5, Gongti Beilu Beijing 北京工体北路5号公寓



Shamian Island, Guangzhou 广州沙面岛



Shamian Island, Guangzhou 广州沙面岛



Apartment 5, Gongti Beilu Beijing 北京工体北路5号公寓



Apartment 5, Gongti Beilu Beijing 北京工体北路5号公寓

Kate Anderson began her career by studying at the Mary White School of Art in Sydney in 1964. Her teachers included John Olsen, Andrew Sibley and Colin Lancel. She travelled overseas in 1966 and studied at the Academie Julian in Paris. On her return to Australia she established the Paddington Print Studio with Charles Bannon. Her involvement with the Art Gallery of NSW as a volunteer guide spanned 20 years and she has maintained an interest with Public Programmes helping in the production of popular education kits for children, the first on Asian Art. Her work began with mixed media and exhibitions at the Arden Gallery, Woollahra 1994,1995,1996. After a 3 year diploma Course at the Charlie Sheard School she exhibited at the Maunsell Wickes Gallery, Paddington 1999. 2001, 2003, 2006 and her next exhibition is there in June 2008. Also in September 2008 a body of photographic work will be shown at the Depot Gallery, Dank Street, Waterloo. After a residency with the Red Gate Gallery(2006) in Beijing she exhibited at the Red Gate in their 798 Gallery curated by Tony Scott. Together with Tony Scott in Beijing in 2007 they produced a catalogue for the on going travelling exhibition Process - Journey, showing in Hong Kong in May 2008. Other exhibitions include The Greenhill Gallery, Adelaide, The Glebe Library and the RACV Club, Melbourne.



Dashanzi 798 Art District 大山子798艺术区



798 Street 798街



7 Star Road 七星路



797 Street 797街

C.A.P.
China Art Projects
中国艺术项目

KATE ANDERSON
凯特·安德森

STAR



798 East Street 798东街



Seven Star Road 七星路



7 Star Street 七星街



798 West Street 798西街



7 Star Road 七星路



798 Street 798街

Acknowledgements:
Kate Anderson wishes to thank Tony Scott for his support and inspiration.

China Art Projects

Brian Wallace and the Red Gate Gallery Residency Program

Essay: Damian Smith

Design: Ren Yanyan



Shamian Island, Guangzhou 广州沙面岛



Shamian Island, Guangzhou 广州沙面岛



Shamian Island, Guangzhou 广州沙面岛



Shamian Island, Guangzhou 广州沙面岛

C.A.P.
China Art Projects
中国艺术项目

KATE ANDERSON
凯特·安德森

BOXED



Letterboxes Tuanjiehu 团结湖信箱



Nan Luo Gu Xiang, Beijing 北京南锣鼓巷



Nan Luo Gu Xiang, Beijing 北京南锣鼓巷



Shamian Island, Guangzhou 广州沙面岛



Nan Luo Gu Xiang, Beijing 北京南锣鼓巷



Xiejia Hutong, Beijing 北京夏家胡同