



C. GRIMALDIS GALLERY

February 25, 2014

PRESS RELEASE



March 12 - April 12, 2014

Opening Reception: Wednesday, March 12, 6-8pm

C. GRIMALDIS GALLERY OPENS “CATHAY” BY ZHAO JING, A SOLO EXHIBITION OF POETRY-INSPIRED PHOTOGRAPHS

C. Grimaldis Gallery is pleased to present “**Cathay**”, an exhibition of photographs by Baltimore-based artist **Zhao Jing**. “Cathay” is a photographic series in which Zhao visually interprets a series of traditional Chinese poems and their translations into English by American poet Ezra Pound. Deeply touched by Pound’s ability to capture the heart of each poem in his translations, Zhao became inspired to do something similar through her photographic lens. This will be the artist’s first solo exhibition at the C. Grimaldis Gallery. “Cathay” will open on Wednesday, **March 12th** and will be on view through **April 12th**. A reception with the artist will be held **Wednesday, March 12th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm**.

The inspiration for Zhao’s photographic series comes from nineteen classical Chinese poems translated by American poet Ezra Pound, one of the most influential poets of the 20th century. His translations, also entitled “Cathay”, were published in 1915 and had a profound influence on 20th century poetry. “Cathay” spawned, among other things, the imagist movement, which helped generate a widespread interest in Asian literature and thought.

These poems, like all great literature, have the ability to transcend time and establish a deep connection to the present day. Zhao therefore relies upon her intuition when shooting and selecting images for “Cathay”, only choosing images that resonate with her and the poems on a deep level. Having read the poems many times over, they have become ingrained within her; the more she revisits the poems, the more thoughts, emotions, and memories they awaken within her. The photographic process becomes more selective as one color image is matched with a black and white image to form a diptych, reflecting her interpretation of the original poems and their translations. Simple colors and low contrast images suggest the indirect and metaphorical qualities of traditional Chinese painting.

A majority of the images in “Cathay” are landscapes since when shooting the series, Zhao adheres to an important tenet of Chinese classical poetry, which is conveying emotion and indicating the poet’s philosophy of life through descriptions of scenery. Using the same process, Zhao creates visual poetry by transcribing her current surroundings through the photographic lens, the majority of which were taken in Baltimore and on her travels through the United States. An exquisite convergence of west and east proves the most beautiful parts of human expression can surmount race and culture.

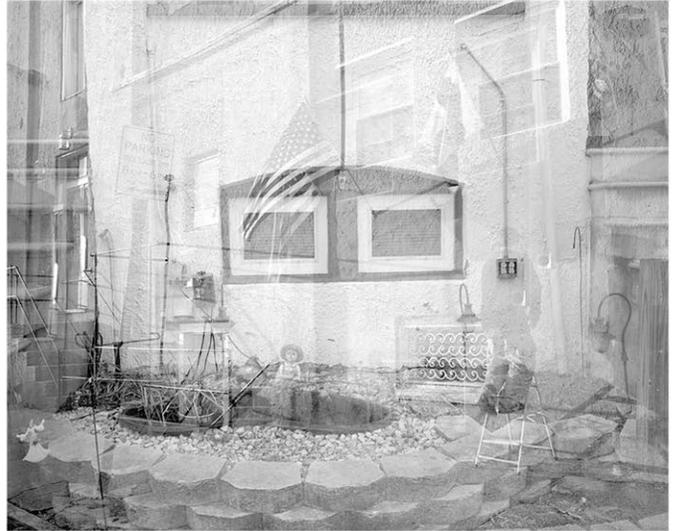
Zhao Jing is an award-winning photo editor and photojournalist from Shanghai, China. In a career spanning about 10 years as a frontline photographer, she captured many of China’s most significant events including the catastrophic 2008 Wenchuan earthquake and 2010 Qinghai earthquake. Zhao completed her BA degree in Chinese Language and Literature at Bei Fang University in China, and received her MFA degree in Photography and Electronic Media from the Maryland Institute college of Art. She has exhibited her work in the Mid-Atlantic region and Shanghai, including the Epson Imaging Gallery, the University of Maryland, and the Easton Gallery of Photographic Arts. Her experience as a photojournalist has informed her photographic fine art practice, blending documentary-style realism with a reflective and nuanced sensibility. Almost a decade in photojournalism, traveling around the world, and witnessing major events has made her more attuned to the pulse of human society and has given her a wider global perspective. Since returning from the frontlines, she has explored new visual territory - one that blends tranquility and analysis as parallels to Eastern and Western culture.

Hours for C. Grimaldis Gallery, which is free and open to the public, are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

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C. Grimaldis Gallery has continuously operated in Baltimore since 1977. It has established itself as Baltimore’s oldest contemporary art gallery, and an important venue in the region. The gallery specializes in post WWII American and European art with an emphasis on contemporary sculpture



ZHAO JING, *Song of the Bowman of Shu* (诗经·小雅·采芣), 2012, Edition of 6 + 1AP, archival digital print, 48 x 22 inches



ZHAO JING, *Leave Taking Near Shoku* (送友人入蜀 李白), 2013, Edition of 6 + 1AP, archival digital print, 48 x 22 inches



ZHAO JING, *The Jewel Stair's Grievance* (玉阶怨), 2013, Edition of 6 + 1AP, archival digital print, 48 x 22 inches