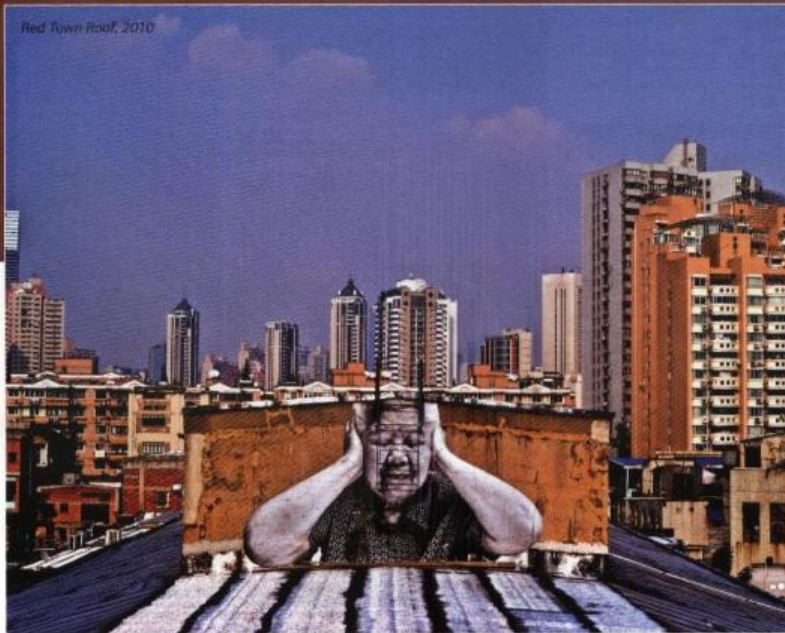


Paul Pairet | **Spicy Sichuan** | Jiashan Market | **JR at 18Gallery** | Yo-yo Ma

Art

Red Town Roof, 2010



ART

Faces in High Places

TED Prize winner JR hits **18Gallery**

JR is a busy man. The Parisian artist has spent the last decade pasting his giant photographs on rooftops, trains and other man-made structures all over the world. Last month he was awarded the prestigious \$100,000 TED Prize, he has several imposing and strategically placed pieces at the Shanghai Biennale and 18Gallery is currently showing his spectacular—(both in the superlative and the Debordian sense)—exhibition, “The Wrinkles of the City.”

With “Wrinkles,” JR met and photographed elderly locals in Shanghai and in Cartagena, Spain, and then pasted the enormous prints onto the buildings in which they live. The wrinkles refer both to the aging and destruction of a city and its residents. This comments on the supposed identity of a city. Since we spend our lives surrounded by these structures, it is only natural to assign them human qualities. This problematizes renovation, which is often met with the same disdain as euthanasia.

JR’s work also complicates our relationship with the city. By pasting his portraits directly on the walls of a building, disregarding its traditional utility, the artist reminds us that, before

anything else, a building is simply an object with dimensions and surfaces. In this, we can see his work connected to Minimalism and Land Art, specifically Christo and Jeanne-Claude’s *Wrapped Reichstag*.

“Wrinkles” also comments on the nature of time in the metropolis. Most encountered images in the city take the form of advertising. These pictures feature young models, thus creating the image of eternal youth, but they must constantly be replaced as their selling power diminishes. Not only does JR’s work highlight the citizens that are left outside of this system, it focuses on the buildings that are waiting to be replaced. The project reminds viewers of their place in history.

While JR dislikes the term “street artist,” the success of his work represents an establishment of this once-marginal genre. While his practice is technically illegal, it is not subversive. He merges the roles of artist and activist. For example, he recently set up a cultural center in one of the Brazilian favelas where he displayed his work. Not bad for a vandal. ■ **Hunter Braithwaite**

JR: “The Wrinkles of the City” at 18 Gallery, Bldg. 4, 18 Zhongshan Dong Yi Lu 中山东一路18号4楼, through Dec. 11, Tel: 6323-7066 ext. 3102

Opening

FROM FRIDAY, NOV. 19
....but the steady negotiation of sm realities

Alec Shepley’s solo show is p neon light installations, paint video projects. Though many pieces are packed with frenet the concept behind them is d Buddhism, destruction and re tion, calmness and kindness.
Vanguard Gallery 5252-2551, 62 www.vanguardgallery.com

FROM SATURDAY, NOV. 20
Wang Qin: Glass Serendipity

In his first solo show, artist W Qin expresses traditional me Chinese calligraphy and ink p through sculptures cast in gl artwork, this new face in the glass scene both molds his m and lets the glass reveal itself
twocities gallery 5252-1518, www.twocitiesgallery.com

SAT., NOV. 20-TUES. NOV. 23
Insight Garage To

This project brings together lished and emerging artists across the globe. They work sculpture, installation and fil their work is making three-d in Hong Kong, Beijing, Bang Taipei, Tokyo, Bali and here i Shanghai. The opening is 7-11 Nov. 20

source 1404-4708, http://www.insight51.com

Closing

THROUGH MONDAY, NOV. 22
Double Act

The work of each of the 13 p artists in this Zoe Zhang Bin group show was created und ferent theme. Chen Hangfen Wang Jianqiang explore publ spaces and private vegetabl and the double identity of bo Jieming and Face-Works are everything having to do with cept of “face.” Whether that: eral sense or the Chinese is i
DDM Warehouse 135-8573-086 www.zoeshangbin.com

On the Borderline Hue

This group exhibition feature works of Shi Jing, Du Jie and Qing Zhong, all of whom sho themes of self-exploration a ery. Closed Mondays.

Montaigne Gallery 6298-9766

THROUGH THURSDAY, NOV. 25
Ink•Paper•Stone

Ma Nan’s solo exhibition sho her engraved sculptures, 3-E tations of the traditional Chi calligraphy. From her hand t and symbols on paper becon tains and valleys. You can al her work at Times Square M
Elisabeth de Brabant Art Cen 7428, www.elisabethdebrabant.com

