



H U A
G A L L E R Y

contemporary chinese art

**Xu Yong Retrospective
Through the Hutongs**

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2012 Hua gallery

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‘The word Hua means to paint, or a painting, in Chinese.’

Established in 2011, Hua Gallery specialises in the exciting and sometimes controversial space that is Chinese contemporary art.

As Chinese contemporary art continues to fascinate and intrigue collectors around the world, demand and appetite for fresh and innovative art from this fast-changing region continues to escalate.

Hua Gallery represents and exhibits cutting edge, stimulating works by established contemporary Chinese artists, as well as emerging contemporary Chinese artists who are not as yet internationally recognized.

Hua Gallery adopts a distinctive business strategy by acquiring works from artists before selling them, as well as by exhibiting and selling works by artists on a commissions basis - an approach which demonstrates a passion, dedication and commitment to the artists and also, importantly, provides confidence to art collectors who trust the gallery to help expand their collections.

Hua Gallery’s founder and director, Shanyan Koder, has developed strong relationships with her artists, and hopes to build a Chinese contemporary art collection in her gallery that is different and inspirational. Every artist represented by Hua Gallery is chosen for their artistic individuality, the creative symbolism in their work, and the emotional energy their work creates.

Hua Gallery is situated on the Albion Riverside, a prestigious residential block on the Battersea riverside, designed by world-renowned architects Foster and Partners. With close to 2,000 square feet of gallery space, Hua Gallery is London’s only Chinese contemporary art gallery with a permanent exhibition space of this size and scale.

Xu Yong

Through the *Hutongs*

One of the pioneers of 798 Art District in Beijing, Xu Yong through his photographic series *101 Portraits of Hutong* witnesses the beauty of the traditional Chinese narrow lanes, *hutongs*, which have been systematically demolished in the name of rampant modernity. Once graceful and refined lanes, the *hutongs* are a symbol of Chinese ancient culture, and are rapidly vanishing due to the destructive process of Beijing's urban development.

In the 1980s Xu Yong started a campaign to preserve the uniqueness of these historical sites. Despite the government only wanting to display modern and Western architecture to foreigners, the 1990s saw him succeed in organising tours in old Beijing quarters to allow people to glimpse a breath of ancient culture.

Through these photographs Xu Yong captures fragments of a disappearing reality, capturing the ephemeral charm of the old lanes covered by snow, washed by rain and delicately shining under the sun. Xu Yong's silent black and white images reflect the loneliness of the *hutongs'* inhabitants as well as of the artist himself, who, in front of their destruction, could only reveal the poetry disclosed by these sites, grasping their fleeting beauty in a single picture.

101 Portraits of Hutong presents itself as a precious testimony of a lost past, bringing to light memories bearing the melancholy of the passage of time.

This work has been collected by several renowned figures, perhaps most notably by George W. Bush, and continues to stir up interest between collectors.

Biography



Born in Shanghai in 1954, now resident in Beijing.

Graduated from Luoyang Polytechnic in 1978.

Between 1984 and 1988 worked in the creative department of a Beijing advertising agency.

Held first solo photography exhibition in 1986.

In 1993, created and ran cultural tours of Beijing's traditional hutong alleys and back streets.

In 2003, designed and initiated the 'Re-Creation 798' art action.

Major publications of photographic works

<Hutong 101 Photos> Zhejiang Art Publishing House, 1990; Shinchosha Publishing Co. Ltd, Japan, 1994, Shuxin Publishing House, Taiwan, 1995; China World Publishing Co., 1996; Heibonsha Publishers, Japan, 2003

<Portraits Taken in Lu Xun's Hometown> Zhejiang Photography Publishing House, 1992

<Countryside China> series photography collections, Zhejiang Photography Publishing House, 1992 – 1996

<Hutong 99> photography collection, Beijing Publishing House, 1996

<Opening Beijing> Beijing Sanlian Publishing House, 2001

<Xiaofangjia Hutong> China Photography Publishing House, 2003

<Backdrops and Backdrops> Timezone 8 Contemporary Art Books Publishing Co., 2006

<Solution Schemes> Culture of China Publication Co.Ltd., Hong Kong, 2011

<18% Gray> Timezone 8 Contemporary Art Books Publishing Co., 2010

<This Face> Culture of China Publication Co.Ltd., Hong Kong, 2011

01 Hutong whose name has been forgotten (1989)



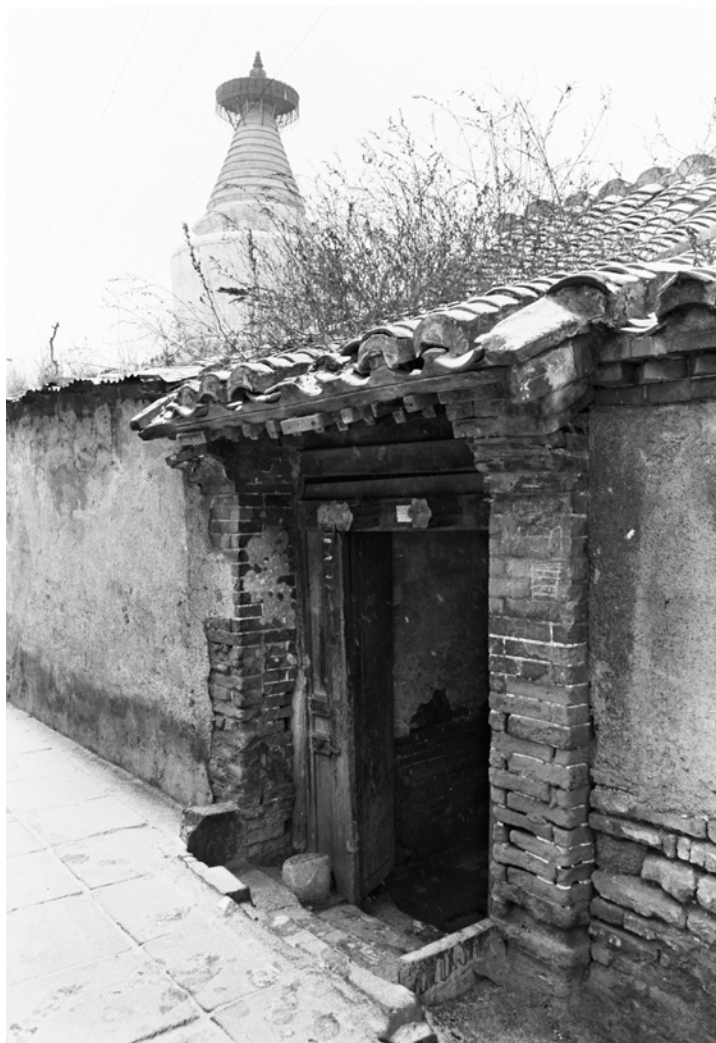
105 x 145 cm / 60 x 80cm
Photograph

02 Front Well Hutong (1989)



105 x 145 cm / 60 x 80cm
Photograph

03 *White Pagoda Hutong* (1989)



105 x 145 cm / 60 x 80cm
Photograph

04 Willow Alley Hutong (1989)



105 x 145 cm / 60 x 80cm
Photograph

05 Oil Painting Hutong (1989)



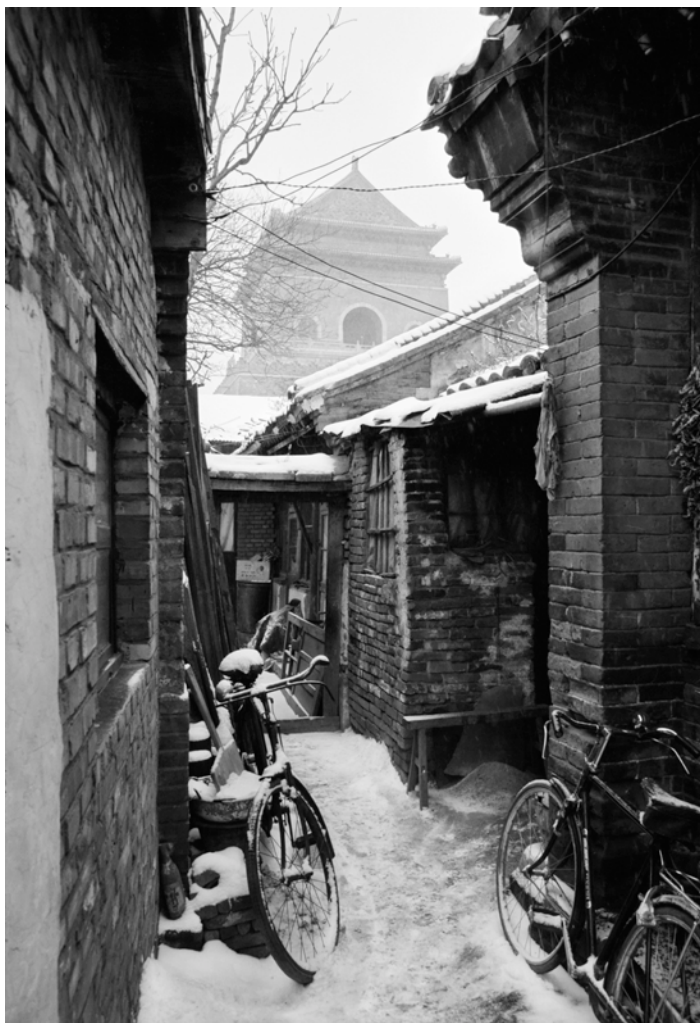
105 x 145 cm / 60 x 80cm
Photograph

06 Zhanzi Hutong (1989)



105 x 145 cm / 60 x 80cm
Photograph

07 Grass Mill Hutong (1989)



105 x 145 cm / 60 x 80cm
Photograph

08 The Family in the Former-scholar's Hutong (1989)



105 x 145 cm / 60 x 80cm
Photograph

09 Plentiful Hutong (1989)



105 x 145 cm / 60 x 80cm
Photograph

10 Fried Bean Hutong (1989)



105 x 145 cm / 60 x 80cm
Photograph

11 Yarn Winding Hutong (1989)



105 x 145 cm / 60 x 80cm
Photograph

12 *Front Vehicle Hutong* (1989)



105 x 145 cm / 60 x 80cm
Photograph

13 Common Storeroom Hutong (1989)



105 x 145 cm / 60 x 80cm
Photograph

14 North Ditch Hutong (1989)



105 x 145 cm / 60 x 80cm
Photograph

15 *Forgotten Hutong* (1989)



105 x 145 cm / 60 x 80cm
Photograph

16 Fragrant Hutong (1989)



105 x 145 cm / 60 x 80cm
Photograph

17 *Clasped Hands Hutong* (1989)



05 x 145 cm / 60 x 80cm
Photograph

18 Shang Qin Hutong (1989)



105 x 145 cm / 60 x 80cm
Photograph

19 *Prince's House Hutong* (1989)



105 x 145 cm / 60 x 80cm
Photograph

20 *Small Golden Silk Hutong* (1989)



105 x 145 cm / 60 x 80cm
Photograph

