

Travel Report

Traveler: Ugne Griniute, History of Art

Travel destination: The People's Republic of China, Beijing and Nanjing

Travel time: September 6th - 26th Duration: 20 days

Travel costs:	
International travel	£505
Local travel	£86
Accommodation	£40
Food	£200
Visa	£40
Medical	£0
Insurance	£25
Museum visits	£20
Total	£946
UCL travel grant	£305

Travel experience

With the aim to experience the context of immense Contemporary Chinese art market growth during the last decade and rich cultural, controversial political history of China, its production and consumption of cultural objects I have spent 15 days in Beijing and 5 days in country's old capital – Nanjing.

While in Beijing I have allowed more than a week to explore widely known art districts 798, where I lived in and Caochangdi, cradle of the sharpest and most interesting and Chinese artists: Ai Wei Wei, Rong Rong, Wang Jin, O Zhang, Li Songsong

I was living with an Argentinian gallerist Daniela Luna, helped her out with the gallery work, which has established itself in Beijing art scene, she has introduced me to majority of the gallerists working in the districts, which gave me an opportunity to learn about the sites better.

While in Beijing I have also visited the main touristic sites:

Ming Tombs, The Great China Wall, The Summer Palace, Lama Temple, Temple of Heaven, Drum and Bell towers, The Forbidden City, Tian'an Men Square, Bei Hai Park, Olympic Village

I have spent five days in Nanjing, mainly the outskirts of the city, living in a small hostel and restricting myself to exclusively Chinese cultural experience. I lived in a hostel – private hutong with a Chinese family, eating the street food only and using the “sign” language to communicate.

Pictures



Olympic village



Temple of Heaven



Forbidden City



Summer Palace



Tian'an Men Square



Mao Zedong figurines in a local bookshop



My residential neighbourhood in Beijing



Hostel in Nanjing



Room in a private Chinese house in Nanjing



Hutong in Nanjing



View of Beijing suburbs

Contemporary Art in China:



798 Art District



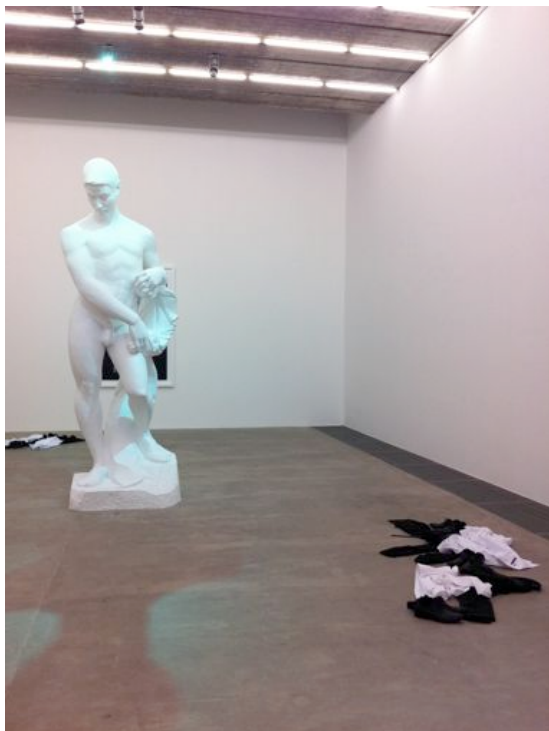
Photography gallery in 798 with slogans worshipping Mao on the ceiling



Reworking Maoist symbols, 798



Political, anti-communist art, Caochangdi art district



Theme of homosexuality, Urs Miele Gallery, Caochangdi