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“The Other Shanghai” by Ant-e-Art

From 14th February - 23rd March 2011, an exhibition exploring the “Other” Shanghai by Merseyside based photography duo Ant-e-Art, will be on display on Renshaw Street. This unique collection of images aims to give the viewer an insight into the parts of the city not frequented by or shown to visitors or the media during the World Expo 2010.

Ant-e-Art, made up of Paul Wicker and Africa Bocos, visited Shanghai before the World Expo last year and were struck by the rich and diverse street culture of the city, and the strong links between it and its former colonisers.

Paradoxically, the idiosyncrasy of any city is at risk of vanishing among the lights and glamour, marketing and publicity that often accompany the organisation of a big event. Shanghai, the financial capital of China where Expo 2010 was held, is no exception. “The Other Shanghai” is a portrait of life in Shanghai and how this is lived outside the Expo precinct. It is a photographic attempt to keep alive and display some of the other Shanghainese culture and behaviour for everybody’s eyes, from returning “Expo-only-visitors” to “all-year-round” tourists in Liverpool, locals and anyone interested in cultures from all over the globe. In short, a photo-story that brings the different cultures of Shanghai and Liverpool closer together.

The artists discuss how the exhibition came about:

“The Other Shanghai” started in Yue Yang road, when after taking photos of a dressed up mannequin against a graffiti wall, we attempted to have a drink in the pub across the road. It was only when we noticed the “sorry-we-are-closed” sign hanging off the window that we came across the name of the place: Abbey Road Pub. As both artists and adopted “Liverpudlians”, aware of the historical links between Liverpool and Shanghai, we felt the need to tell a story about some aspects of Shanghai’s idiosyncrasy through the lens. The aim was to complement the views and impressions of Shanghai that the public would get through all the marketing and publicity displayed as part of Expo 2010.



"The Other Shanghai" is dedicated to aimless wanderers, to those who observe, reflect and get easily entangled with what other cultures have to offer."

Please call 0845 017 6660 or email info@dot-art.com for more information. The exhibition can be viewed 24 hours a day in the windows of the Watson Building (ex- Lewis's) from Monday 14th February.

This project has been generously support by Liverpool City Council's Shops Upfront Project, and the property was kindly supplied by Merepark.

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High resolution images and further accompanying text available on request.

For more details, please contact:

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Notes to editors.

dot-art Ltd is an art gallery and consultancy based in Liverpool city centre, specialising in affordable, high quality, locally sourced art, on a sale, commission and rental basis, as well as offering a range of complementary services including: art consultancy, exhibition planning and implementation, bespoke framing, art valuation and restoration and artist sourcing.

dot-art Services CIC is a not-for-profit organisation which exists to support North-West based visual artists, both emerging and established, through a range of services and activities designed to help them develop their careers and gain exposure and promotion for their work. A Social Enterprise with artists at it's heart, dot-art Services CIC functions in a unique fashion, operating a membership system which gives artists a range of benefits including their own web page, access to exhibition, career development and promotional opportunities, as well as help and advice, networking events and discounts on art supplies and framing.

See www.dot-art.com for more information.