Week 5 report

This week the YAAD group was still split up, as it was our last few days of holidays. Matt and Dannie were on a tour through Inner Mongolia, Adam was traveling through china and Shelley and I were exploring shanghai. We travelled with two of our friends from Tianjin normal university, Basa who is from Slovakia and Madison who is from Adelaide, Australia.

Going to shanghai was an amazing experience; we had 6 nights there and explored the city as much as possible. On the first day we went to Xing Guang Photographic market, it was a huge building with shop after shop of rare new and second hand cameras. It was almost like visiting a camera museum rather than a market. Seeing as Shelley and I both study photography this place was truly spectacular, it was so remarkable we went back two more times.

Madison had lived in shanghai for about a year or two studying. She made the trip much more enjoyable because she took us to amazing places we wouldn't have found. For example she took us to an amazing market, which sold almost everything clothes, electronics and so much more. It was overwhelming at first. Shopkeepers trying to sell you their products always approached you and calling out to you. It was an amazing very chaotic enjoyable experience. Getting to and from these sorts of places in shanghai was easy. Every place we visited had metro stations close by and you never had to wait more than 2 minutes for a train.

One of the highlights from the trip was going to the Museum of Contemporary art (MOCA) there was an amazing sculptural exhibition on. It was titled “Will Things Ever Get Better?” The joint exhibition featured Xiang Jing and Qu Guangchi. The exhibitions intention was for people to experience and question life. The artist’s work was very thought provoking and powerful. The two artists had very different sculptural styles but both collections of works were very inspiring.

On our final full day in shanghai we went to the M50 art district which is located on Moganshan road in the Putuo District. The rapidly growing district once was a textile mill but is now filled with over 120 art galleries and studios. There was a marvelous array of different art. Every medium and style was there from very contemporary sculpture to more classical landscape oil paintings. My favourite gallery in the M50 district was the OFOTO Gallery. It was a slightly hidden photography gallery that had an amazing diverse range of photographs that were truly inspirational. The best thing about the M50 district no matter what sort of art you are interested in there was something for you. With the great number of galleries you could

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spend at least a full day at M50 and I look forward to revisiting the district when I return to Shanghai.

Shanghai was an amazing experience. I would go back in a heartbeat. It has so much to offer and we have only just scraped the surface of a truly remarkable city.