

Lost Paths of the Southwestern Chinese Tribes

The East Meets West Gallery is proud to present a special art-project by Tatiana Paleeva entitled "Lost Paths of the Southwestern Chinese Tribes". Who are these ethnic groups of Miao (Hmong), Ge (Gejia), Dong, Buy (Bouyei) and Yao (Man) hidden in the highlands and mountains off beaten track and out of "civilization"? They are simple people that call themselves "people" or "man" in their native language. The current art- project includes a large part of Tatiana Paleeva's traditional Guizhou and Guanxi collection: antique and modern costumes of the "red" and "black" Miao, Ge, Buy, Dong peoples, with unique embroidery, applique and hand weaving; religious relics, sculptures and a robe of Yao shamans, together with ancestral scrolls; silver decorations of the women of the Miao and Bouyei ethnic groups; Tatiana's own ethnic photographs, partly exhibited during her last project on China under the name "A Portrait of One".

At the exhibition the artifacts collected during expeditions to Guizhou and Guanxi are presented in a synthesis of different forms of contemporary art: performance, light, music and photography, traditional ethnic dances of the Sichuan, Tibet and Yunnan provinces of China, and an installation of human-like puppets to demonstrate costumes. Sacrificial banners made in a rare wax-resist method to color batik create the atmosphere of the biggest Miao traditional festival which is called "Naolue" in the Miao language ("Guzhang" in the Han Chinese language).

Collectors and connoisseurs will be pleased by the first appearance in Moscow of the XIX century photographs of China by John Thomson, a well-known photographer and traveler. They will also see the finest black and white gelatin silver prints by Beijing photographer Kang Guo Qing made in the nineteen eighties of XX c. and the later works by his son, Kang Xue Song. Color portraits and documentary photos of the Miao and Ge people's everyday life were carried out by the well-known Guizhou photo artist Lu Xian Yi especially for the survey Symbols and Rituals - An illustrated Introduction to the Civilizations of the Guizhou History, Culture and Civilization, Guiyang, 2006, Zhang Xia Song, Lu Xian Yi.

The Gallery artists Lilia Balasanova and Sergei Kolevatykh inspired by the Southwestern Chinese ethnic group's traditional designs will present to the public their original photo-collages.

Please, join us in our expedition to the tribal treasures of hidden civilizations in the Southwestern provinces of China 12.00 to 21.00 daily

at the Design Center ARTPLAY

From March 22 to March 31, 2008

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East Meets West Gallery

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