

Greg Girard
Phantom Shanghai
Greg Girard
Shanghai fantôme

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Until recently, a former resident of Shanghai from the 1930s or 1940s, returning to the city decades later, would have a good chance of being able to locate his or her old home since urban development for profit was suspended for nearly a half century. However, as Shanghai modernizes, entire neighbourhoods that were once preserved "by accident" are being deliberately demolished. It is those buildings, shops, homes, and neighbourhoods that Greg Girard has been photographing for the past five years. His works depict the temporary coexistence of the old and new Shanghais. There is a ghostlike feeling to these images recorded at dusk or at night on daylight transparency film.

Jusqu'à récemment, un citoyen de Shanghai des années 30 ou 40 retournant dans sa ville aurait probablement retrouvé sa maison intacte puisque tout développement privé était interdit depuis cinquante ans. Maintenant que Shanghai se modernise, des quartiers entiers sont en cours de destruction. Ce sont ces édifices, boutiques, maisons et quartiers que Greg Girard a photographiés au cours des cinq dernières années. De ses images, captées au crépuscule ou en pleine nuit sur pellicule à sensibilité diurne, se dégage une impression fantomatique qui témoigne d'une coexistence temporaire du passé et du futur de Shanghai.