

A close-up, slightly dimly lit photograph of a person's face, likely a performer. The person has dramatic, dark eye makeup and pinkish-red eyeshadow. Their hair is dark and styled with intricate braids, adorned with numerous strands of white and blue beaded necklaces. A hand is visible on the right side of the frame, adjusting one of the necklaces. The overall aesthetic is theatrical and ornate.

Varvara Shavrova / The Opera

The Opera

The Opera is an insight into the fragile world of the Peking Opera, one of the most revered artforms of the Chinese national scene.

The work focuses on the transformation from male to female, and from female to male, of the Peking Opera artists. Balancing moments of pure visuality with behind the scenes footage, the video underscores the striking avantgardist qualities of this most traditional of artforms.

The Opera is accompanied by a specially commissioned score by composer Benoit Granier which incorporates elements of traditional Chinese and contemporary electronic music.



















The Opera

Espacio Cultural El Tanque, Tenerife



VARVARA SHAVROVA 'THE OPERA' 2011, 6-screen projection and sound installation Special commission for Espacio Cultural El Tanque, Tenerife. Fotonoviembre 2011, XI International Bienalle of Photography and Video Art of Tenerife



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Varvara Shavrova

Born in Moscow, Shavrova studied fine art at the Moscow Poligraphic Institute. After 15 years in London, she moved to Beijing, where she lived and worked for over five years. Now based in Dublin, Shavrova has recently been commissioned by Espacio Cultural del Tanque, Tenerife and will be exhibiting in the Museum of the History of St Petersburg in Spring 2012. Her work is in many important public and private collections. She is represented by Patrick Heide Contemporary Art, London.