

GLOBAL FORUM RESOURCES

THE NEW SILK ROADS: AN ARTISTIC RENDERING

PRESS RELEASE



China, Jiayuguan Great Wall, Atelier Morales 2019 ©
Photography with graphite and watercolor, Photo Daniel Pype

ateliermorales



OVERVIEW

In order to promote dialogue and reflection about modern-day connectivity, Global Forum Resources has commissioned two artists, Atelier Morales, to carry out a photographic journey along the mythic silk road. Starting in Shanghai, the artists traveled more than 13 000 km (mostly by land) through numerous cities, historical sites, landmarks and territories in China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Germany, Russia and Belarus.

The resulting artwork (photography hand-rendered with graphite and water-color) has been produced under the rubric **The New Silk Roads: Time, Space and Existence** and sets out to capture key aspects of how the land and sea corridors that today connect Europe to Asia overlap onto the historical silk route - with its landscapes and main hallmarks being integrated into new silk roads - and how diverse local traditions and cultures today cohabit to allow for a modern-day flow of energies, information, goods and people.

Starting in 2021, the artworks will be presented in a traveling exhibition that will visit several major cities. Prior to this exhibition, the artworks will have been presented in Venice, Italy during the 2019 Art Biennale (May-November 2019).

THE NEW SILK ROADS: SPACE, TIME AND EXISTENCE

“The very cities, landscapes, people, cultures, religions, languages and economies that we encountered have the potential to give life to the perennial dream of planetary connectivity. We hope that in so doing the fragile balance between space, time and existence achieved across centuries will be preserved in this legendary silk road.”

Atelier Morales’ long and memorable voyage, which purposely overlapped with some of the routes taken by Marco Polo and Baron Von Richthofen, revealed many emblems that once seen could not be forgotten. The constant challenge for the artists was to capture the vast accumulation of information and the varied images encountered, in order to discern the recurring signs that help form a redundant memory on which the silk road’s temporal transcendence is based.

Each new encounter pointed to the legendary caravans while also reflecting new forms of connectivity for current and future transcontinental trade. The more the artists immersed themselves in the remote cities that they visited, the more they understood their prior stops and each new city revealed aspects of those that preceded. They moved along an open road, informed by a retrospective eye, searching for the proximal future made visible through the permanent traces left by a magnificent past, a future constantly evolving as they moved forward.

In each new and spectacular landscape or city photographed, they became aware that the importance of each site added to the beauty of its surroundings, a connection impossible to capture with their cameras. That is why they have supplemented their photographs with drawing and painting; in order to capture, with an illusion, the intangible aspects of this mythic voyage.

Thus, in the works created, “arrival” and “departure” figure as key leitmotifs representing the omnipresent road, without which the sites visited would not have developed, nor the life that evolved in them and in their surroundings.



THE ARTISTS

Juan Luis Morales and Teresa Ayuso (Atelier Morales) are a team of internationally recognized photographers/architects.

These Cuba-born Paris-based artists have participated in many gallery and museum exhibitions worldwide (spanning cities such as Berlin, Havana, Mexico, Miami, Paris and Zurich) and including numerous international art fairs (e.g. Art Basel, Miami; Armory Show, New York; Scope, London; MACA, Mexico; HOT Art, Basel and Venice Biennale). Museum exhibitions have included The Centre Pompidou in Paris, Museum of Latin American Art in Los Angeles and PAMM, Perez Art Museum in Miami.

Artists website: <http://ateliermorales.com>

TRAVELING EXHIBITION

34 artworks (each 90 x 190 cm or 60 x 90 cm)

RUSSIA: St-Petersburg | February 11 - May 10, 2021 | *Erarta Museum of St-Petersburg*

ERARTA

Other destinations to be announced.

VENICE BIENNALE

PERSONAL STRUCTURES

MAY 11 - NOVEMBER 24, 2019

PALAZZO BEMBO, VENICE, ITALY

Atelier Morales presented a panel of 15 artworks from the project, each 60 x 90 cm.

This presentation was made possible through the generous support of the United Transport and Logistic Company - Eurasian Rail Alliance (UTLC ERA).

For further information, please visit the project website: <http://www.gfrsilkroadsproject.com>

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