

# 超真实中国

## Hyperreality China

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The philosophical term “hyperreality” derives from the French philosopher Jean Baudrillard’s creation, referring to the blurring of the distinction between reality and falsity. In the Greek language, “hyper” means “beyond” or “transcending”, with the connotation that it is of a higher level of reality, therefore implying a reality that is made in accordance with a model. Hyperreality means more than imitation, and it is not produced, rather it is always in the state of having been reproduced. Hence, reality is now no longer a natural being, but artificially created or re-created as in the case of a simulated circumstance. This does not mean, however, that it has become untrue or incredible, but that it is more than reality, a sort of reality that is carefully disposed of in a hallucinatory similarity.

Such descriptions attached to postmodern society by Baudrillard 30 years ago, seem like a self-fulfilling prophecy in China today. Seen in light of the great transformation of urbanization China is now undertaking, the actual view-sights appear overwhelmingly to be something kind of hyperreality. Photography functions eligibly to recreate the hyperreality in present China, since it is widely accepted as the equipment for the reproduction of the image of actual reality. So I make an attempt to create hyperreal pictures in an ultra-careful and panoramic manner.

Ever since 2004, I have been active in various programs of photography, take pictures of the huge projects of the Three Gorges Dam and the Qinghai-Tibet Railway, whose scales are truly beyond our imagination, together with the Cityscape caught while travelling around several Chinese cities in pursuit of a showcase of the urbanizing China and the like, all taken on many a spontaneous moments of the actual scene, are making clear to all what Baudrillard means when he says “nominal-becomes associated with the dimension of the hyperreal phantasm. Wherever we are, we are already in actual ‘aesthetical’ illusions.”

In China, the hyperreal sights are still holding on, and it makes sense that the word “hyperreality” shall never die off with its everlasting meanings so long as I keep an eye on the program of “hyperreality China” photography.