MICHAEL
GOEDHUIS

SHAO YINONG AND MU CHEN

The Assembly Hall - Changgang

2002
Chromogenic print
88 x 120 cm (34 5/8 x 47 1/4 inches)



Circa: 2002

Artist description:

Husband and wife Shao Yinong & Mu Chen work together in Beijing to create photographs that illuminate the facets and functions of memory - a poignant process in China where a conservative agricultural society has been propelled within a few decades into an economic superpower. Their series "Assembly Hall" consists of documentary photographs of spaces annexed during the Cultural Revolution for political meetings. The halls' various subsequent fates mirror the experiences of people who have lived through China's period of extreme political turmoil. Shao Yinong and Mu Chen's large scale color photographs have attracted critical attention not only for their ability to evoke and examine the tension between the political past and the political present, but also for the subtle beauty of their images. Their work has been widely exhibited, particularly in the important Alors la Chine exhibition at the Pompidou Center in Paris and in Arles.