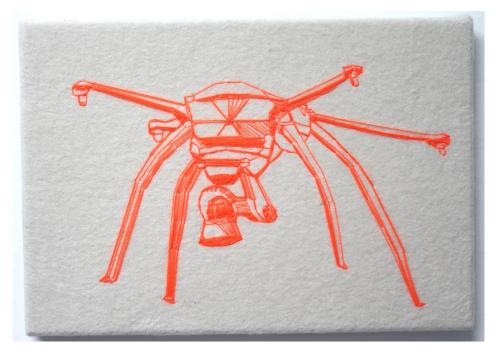


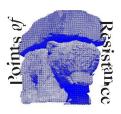
VARVARA SHAVROVA



Threads of Surveillance. Soft Drones 7 (2020), Embroidery, thread, interlining fabric, 25 x 35 cm



Threads of Surveillance. Soft Drones 13 (2020), Embroidery, thread, interlining fabric, 25 x 35 cm



ARTIST STATEMENT

My practice is focused on excavating the layers of history through the process of remembering, recalling, retracing and reenacting stories. In engaging memory, nostalgia and reflection, I create installations that make connections between historic and current narratives, between the archival and the present. In my current work, I examine the symbols of power and authority whilst investigating their relationship to the individual. The process of empathy is the means of materializing the past into the present. The materiality of my installations is a comment on women's labour, and include objects made of paper, thread, yarn and fabric, with methodologies of drawing, weaving, embroidery and knitting often combined with digital technologies and the moving image. Thematically, my work often investigates 'borders' in physical, geo-political and gendered terms.

In my new and ongoing *Threads of Surveillance*. *Soft Drones Series (2020-2021),* I examine the tools of surveillance, question the notion of privacy and address the meaning of civil liberties in the context of a pandemic. By the end of March 2020, nearly 3 billion people, or every 5th person on this planet, found themselves under total or partial lockdown. Quarantine enforcement, contact tracing, flow modelling and social graph-making are some of the data tools that are being used to tackle the covid-19 pandemic. In the various states of emergency that different countries around the world are experiencing today, mass surveillance is becoming normalised. As citizens, we are asked to sacrifice our right to privacy and to give up civil liberties in order to defeat the pandemic. What happens once the state of emergency is over?

Hovering on the intersection of historic appropriation and contemporary reflection, I develop ideas around tangible and intangible flying objects that conjure up various elements of surveillance mechanisms. The hand embroidered drawings of drones are sewn directly onto soft fabric used as interlining for drapery and curtains, thus evoking the sense of domesticity and comfort. That comforting sense of security and domesticity is in stark contrast with the objects that I am depicting, thus reflecting on the notion of surveillance that interferes with the very basics of our daily existence.

The process of making a drawing using thread refers to surveillance methodologies set up as domestic traps. The associations that I am developing are those of insects being trapped in webs, like a fly trapped in a spider's web, or images of airplanes following flight charts, or surveillance and spy maps used by pilots. The threaded and embroidered drawings will be further developed into sculptural objects that will eventually inhabit the space around them, creating spiders web-like traps, with objects suspended, pulled and stretched within their physical environments, that will trick and lure the viewer inside them.

BIO

Varvara Shavrova is a visual artist born in the USSR who lives and works in Dublin and Berlin. Shavrova studied at the Moscow State University of Printing Arts, and received her Masters in Fine Arts from Goldsmiths, University of London.



Shavrova's project *Inna's Dream* reinterprets the first Soviet amphibious aeroplane designed by her great uncle in 1930s as a site-specific installation at Patrick Heide Contemporary Art, London 2019, and at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford 2021. *Mapping Fates*, multi-media installation reflects on Shavrova's family migration, and includes tapestries and sound, shown in V.I. Lenin's apartment-museum in St. Petersburg 2017. *The Opera* portrays the gender fluidity in traditional Peking opera, shown at Temple Beijing and MOMENTUM Berlin 2016, Gallery of Photography Ireland 2014, Venice Biennale of Architecture 2014, Espacio Cultural El Tanque, Tenerife 2011. Shavrova received awards from Arts Council England, Arts Council Ireland, Culture Ireland, British Council, The Prince's Trust. Shavrova curated multiple international exhibitions and projects, including *The Sea is the Limit* at York Art Gallery in 2018 and at Virginia Commonwealth University, Doha Qatar in 2019, and *Map Games: Dynamics of Change* at Today Art Museum, Beijing, Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery, UK and at CAOS Centre for Contemporary Arts, Terni, Italy in 2008-2010. Shavrova's works are in public collections of the Office for Public Works and at the Department of Foreign Affairs Ireland, MOMENTUM Collection and IKONO-TV Berlin, Ballinglen Museum of Contemporary Art Ireland, Minsheng Art Museum Beijing, Moscow Museum of Modern Art, Museum of the History of St. Petersburg. Shavrova is represented by Patrick Heide Contemporary Art London. She is currently Artist in Residence at MOMENTUM Berlin.

CV

Born in Moscow, Russia; lives and works between Dublin and Berlin.

Education

2016-2019	MFA (Fine Art) Goldsmiths College, University of London
2004-2005	Public Art & Design NVQ, Freeform Arts Trust, London
1987-1990	Fine and Art & Graphic Design, Moscow State University of Printing Arts

Solo Exhibitions & Projects

2020

Inna's Dream, 'Space' Late, Science Museum, London (postponed to 2021)

2019

Inna's Dream, Patrick Heide Contemporary Art, London

2017

Reflections on Haw Lantern, site-specific installation at Seamus Heaney HomePlace, Bellaghy, N.Ireland *The Opera*, Live stream and on-demand, IKONO-TV Imaginary Museum, Berlin 2016



The Opera, MOMENTUM Berlin and Temple Beijing Cultural Centre, Beijing, China 2015

Borders new works, Galway International Arts Festival, Galway, Ireland

Miniature Suicides new works, Fotonoviembre 2015 Photography Festival, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain 2014

The Opera, Patrick Heide Contemporary Art, London

Digging with Seamus Heaney, site-specific live poetry performance and sound installation, Beijing CBD Windows on Dublin and Beijing, Open House Dublin in collaboration with Broadstone studios, Dublin 2013

Windows on the Hutong, La Camara Gallery, Fotonoviembre 2013 Photography Festival, StaCruz de Tenerife 2012

The Opera, Gallery of Photography Ireland and Dublin Chinese New Year Festival 2012, Ireland *The Opera*, Ballina Arts Centre, Ballina, Co.Mayo, Ireland

Untouched, Ballina Civic Offices, Ballina, Co.Mayo, Ireland

2011

The Opera special commission & site specific installation, Espacio Cultural El Tanque, Santa Cruz de Tenerife 2011

Windows on the Hutong, Patrick Heide Contemporary Art, London

2010

Windows on the Hutong, Gallery 49 presented by Pekin Fine Arts, Beijing, China 2009

Untouched, Galway Museum, Galway International Arts Festival 2009, Galway, Ireland

Untouched, Irish Arts Festival, Irish Culture Centre, Shanghai, China

Between the Borders, Morono Kiang Gallery, Los Angeles

Borders, RichMix, London

Untouched projections, Gallery of Photography Ireland, Temple Bar, Dublin

2008

Borders, Galerie Morgen, Berlin and Patrick Heide Art Projects London

Untouched, Beijing Art Museum of Imperial City, Beijing

Marriage Proposal project, Intrude 266, Zengdai MOMA, Shanghai

2007

Borders, Moscow Museum of Modern Art and Rumiantsev Palace, Museum of the History of St.Petersburg Borders, the Asia-Pacific Forum of Russian Diaspora, Embassy of Russia, Beijing

2006

Walls (with Wu Hugong), Dong-Xi Gallery curated by MADA SPAM, Jade Valley Mill, Lantian, Shaanxi, China 2006



nterferences OffiCina Studio, Factory 798, 3rd Dashanzi International Art Festival, Beijing

Interferences Dartmoor Gallery, High Moorland Visitors Centre, Princetown, Dartmoor National Park, Devon 2005

New Arrivals-Two Dimensions (with Ben McMillan) Centre for European Art in China, East End Art Zone, Beijing 2003-2006

Landscape Fossilised: From Ballycastle to Beijing National Day Reception, Embassy of Ireland, Beijing, Patrick Heide Art Projects, London, Mayo General Hospital, Castlebar, Ceide Fields Visitors Centre, Ballycastle Co.Mayo, Cross Gallery, Dublin, Patrick Heide Art Projects, Frankfurt

2003

Mapping an Island (with Nicola Rae), Patrick Heide Art Projects, London

2002-2003

Sound of Colour (with Alyson Brien), Dean Clough Galleries, Halifax, Yorkshire

2002

Inscriptions and other works InsideSpace gallery, London

2001-2002

Inscriptions: Painting The Line Touring Exhibition in UK & Ireland, curated by Reyahn King: James Hockey Gallery, Surrey Institute of Art & Design, Farnham, Aston Hall, Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery, Stanley Picker Gallery, Kingston University, Kingston-upon-Thames, Model Arts, Niland Gallery, Sligo, Linenhall Arts Centre, Castlebar, Ballinglen Arts Foundation, Ballycastle, County Mayo, Ireland

2001

Monotypes and Other Prints 1996-1999, Vital Arts at The Barts Hospital NHS Trust, London

1998

Passion Grace and Fire, Blains Fine Art, London

1996

Porthleven, Curwen Gallery, London

Selected Group Exhibitions

2020

COVIDecameron: 19 Artists from the MOMENTUM Collection 10th Anniversary Online Exhibition 2020

A Woman's Work, European Prospects online project platform, exhibitions and international symposium 2019

The Sea is the Limit, in collaboration with The 8th Biennal Hamad bin Khalifa Symposium on Islamic Art The Seas and Mobility of Islamic Art, Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar

Degree Show Goldsmiths MFA Fine Art, Laurie Grove Baths, Goldsmiths, University of London



Shall I Stay or Shall I Go?, Patrick Heide Contemporary Art and Bartha Contemporary, London 2018

The Sea is the Limit, exhibition on migrant crisis, York Art Gallery, York, UK

Conspiracy of the Real. Artistic Perspectives in a Post-Truth Climate, Tenderpixel, London

2017

Red October, special event and project presentation, National College of Art & Design (NCAD), Dublin Pulse Miami, Patrick Heide Contemporary Art, Florida, USA

10 Years, anniversary exhibition, Patrick Heide Contemporary Art, London

Mapping Fates installation at Lenin's apartment, St.Petersburg, Facts and Fictions ProArte 14th Festival of contemporary art in traditional museum curated by Katryn Becker, NBK Berlin

Deptford X festival, Goldsmiths MFA studios, Deptford, London

Claremorris Gallery VUE art fair, Royal Hybernian Academy, Dublin

MursaraMix video art festival, Jerusalem

2016-2017

The Sea is the Limit, Patrick Heide Contemporary Art, London

2016

Ganz Grosses Kino, MOMENTUM and Kunst-im-Kino at Kino International, Berlin

2015

UnFold exhibition curated by Peter Prendergast, MART projects space, Dublin, Ireland

The Opera installation at Inaugural Chinjiang Chongqing Biennale of Photography and Video Art, Chinjiang

Contemporary Art Museum, Chongqing, China

2014

The Opera installation at 'Across Chinese Cities: Beijing' collateral project exhibition, Arsenale 100, Venice Biennale of Architecture curated by Rem Koolhaas

The Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy of Arts, London

2013

2011

New Irish Landscapes curated by Tanya Kiang , Three Shadows Photography Arts Centre, Beijing, China 2012

Mirrors on the Opera curated by Tanya Kiang, Pingyao International Photography Festival, Shanxi, China Tense curated by Helen Carey, Limeric City Gallery of Art, Limerick, Ireland

The Opera screened at THE LEAP Shanghai Contemporary Video Program curated by Phillip Tinari, Shanghai 2010

The Space In-Between, Trailblazers special project at Dublin Contemporary, Dublin 2009-2010

Eye World Drawer Exhibition curated by Emily Cheng, New York



2009

Sale, Patrick Heide Contemporary Art, London

2008-2009

Map Games: Dynamics of Change. Art and architecture from Beijing, international touring exhibition curated

by Feng Boyi, Varvara Shavrova and offiCina(Beijing), Today Art Museum, Beijing; Birmingham Museums & \$

Art Gallery, Gas Hall, Birmingham UK, Terni Centre for Contemporary Art (CaoS), Terni, Italy

2008

Elemental video commission, GreenPix Media Wall, Xicui entertainment complex, Beijing

Through the Lens: New Media Art from Ireland, Beijing Art Museum of Imperial City, Beijing

2007

Borders screenings, *Photoquai* festival of non-European photography and video, Theatre Claude Levi-Strauss, Musee du Quai Branly, Paris

2007

CEAD Irish Art Exhibition, curated by 411 Gallery, Shanghai and Beijing

Irish Artists in China, Irish arts and cultural forum, Beijing Institute of Graphic Communications

2006

Portraits and Still Lives installation at China- Chai-na exhibition, 706 Space, 3rd Dashanzi International Art Festival,

Factory 798, Beijing

2003

Drawing and Sculpture, Ashford Gallery, Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin

2001-2003

Jerwood Drawing Prize 2002, exhibition of shortlisted artist, University of Gloucestershire, Cheltenham

touring to London, Birmingham, Glasgow, Manchester & Hull

2002

Women Who Draw, Sherbourne House, Dorset

New Works on Paper, Fenderesky Gallery, Belfast, Northern Ireland

2001

The Jerwood Drawing Prize 2001, Cheltenham and touring to London & Hull

1999

Summer exhibition, Blains Fine Art, London

1998

Fever, Painting show, Blains Fine Art, London

Curatorial Projects

2019



The Sea is the Limit (Curator), exhibition exploring issues of borders, migration and identity at Virginia Commonwealth University Arts Qatar, Doha, in collaboration with *The Seas and Mobility of Islamic Art*, the 8th Biennal Hamad bin Khalifa International Symposium on Islamic Art

2018

The Sea is the Limit (Guest Curator), group show on migration, borders and refugee crisis, York Museum, York, UK, in collaboration with Patrick Heide Contemporary Art, London

2014

Giving Voice, (Guest Curator), exhibition of Mary Robinson's Presidential archive, Ballina Library, Mary Robinson Foundation, Ballina, County Mayo, Ireland

2008

Through the Lens: New Media Art from Ireland, (Exhibition Curator), Irish Arts and Culture Festival, Beijing Art Museum of Imperial City, Beijing, China

2005-2009

Map Games: Dynamics of Change, (Exhibition Curator), multi-media visual art and architecture project involving 24 Chinese and international artists and architects, co-curated with Feng Boyi, and realized in collaboration with offiCina(Beijing). Exhibition touring Today Art Museum Beijing, Gas Hall Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery and CaoS Centre for Contemporary Art, Terni, Italy

Awards, Fellowships, Residencies

2020

Visual Arts COVID-19 Response Award, the Arts Council of Ireland

2019-2020

Artist in Residence, Artists in Prisons Scheme supported by the Arts Council of Ireland

2015-16

Culture Ireland Award for The Opera project at MOMENTUM Berlin

2015

MART project space collaborative residency

2014

Culture Ireland Award for The Opera installation at Arsenale, Venice Biennale of Architecture, Italy

2013

Visual Arts Award for Irish Chinese Stories project, Dublin City Council

Culture Ireland Award for New Irish Landscapes group exhibition, Three Shadows Photography Arts Centre, Beijing curated by Tanya Kiang, Gallery of Photography Ireland

2012



Culture Ireland award for the Mirrors on the Opera, curated by Tanya Kiang, Pingyao International Photography

Festival, Pingyao Ancient City, Shanxi province, China

2008,2009

Culture Ireland award for the Untouched exhibitions in Beijing and Shanghai

2004-2006

Residency at Shovel Down art and archaeology project, Dartmoor National Park, Devon

2002-2003

Grant to Individual Artists, London Visual Arts Fund, London Arts

1999-2004

Ballinglen Arts Foundation Fellowship Awards, Ballycastle, Co.Mayo

2000

Cill Rialaig Project, Residency Award, Ballinskelligs, Co.Kerry

1994

Go & See Portugal The Prince's Trust Artists' Travelling & Working Award, Portugal

1993

Openning Up Spaces Travelling and Working Award, European Artists' Workshop, Ettesburg Castle and ACC Gallerie,

Weimar, Germany

1990-1993

Studio Award The Florence Trust Studios, London

Teaching & Lecturing

2020

Visiting Lecturer, St. Andrew's College, Dublin

2020

Visiting Lecturer, Heatherley's School of Art, Chelsea, London

2019

Studio visit and artist's talk, Painting and printmaking, Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar, School of Art 2000-

2019

Visiting Lecturer, Undergraduate and Postgraduate Fine Art courses, Leeds University, University of Surrey, Kingston

University, Tsing Hua University, Beijing, Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA), Beijing, Renmin Beijing Normal

University

2006-2010

Art Club Tutor, Beijing Fangcaodi International School, Beijing, China

2008

Visiting Artist, Harrow International School, Beijing, China



2001-2005

Art Tutor, Artist in Residence, Our Lady & St. Joseph RC Primary School, Hackney, London 1998-2005

Lecturer in Fine Art (painting, drawing, sculpture), Heatherley's School of Art, Chelsea, London 1997-2005

Art Tutor, Geffrye Museum, British Museum, Victoria & Albert Museum, Museum of Childhood, Museum of London, the Ragged School Museum, the Hayward Gallery, London

Selected Panel Discussions & Talks

2019

The Sea is the Limit Curator's tour and artis's talk, concurrent with The Sea is the Limit exhibition, Virginia Commonwealth University Gallery, Arts Qatar

2018

Ways of Telling: The Sea is the Limit. Panel discussion as part of Who We Are? project at Tate Exchange, in collaboration with York University, Counterpoint Arts, Refugee Week and Tate Modern, London The Sea is the Limit. Round Table Discussion, York Museum, concurrent with The Sea is the Limit exhibition, York Art Gallery

2017

Red October public event commemorating 100 Anniversary of the Russian Revolution, National College of Art & Design (NCAD), Dublin

2016

Visualising Chinese Borders international conference, presenting paper on Between the Borders project, Manchester Metropolitain University

First Thought Talks: On Identity, with Catrina Crowe, the Galway International Arts Festival, Ireland

Matrioshka: Layers of Transformation in Peking Opera. How Contemporary Artists Look at Traditional Chinese Opera. In dialogue with Li Zhenhua, Momentum Berlin

2015

The Sea is the Limit gallery talk on representation of migrant crisis in contemporary art, Conversations series at Patrick Heide Contemporary Art London

2010

Untouched film and photography project, presentation at the Beijing Bookworm International Literature Festival, Beijing, China

Selected Public Art Commissions



Reflections on Haw Lantern, site-specific installation at Seamus Heaney HomePlace museum, Bellaghy, N.Ireland Digging with Seamus Heaney, site-specific live poetry performance and sound installation, Beijing CBD, China The Opera commission and site specific installation, Espacio Cultural El Tanque, Santa Cruz de Tenerife Landscape Fossilised Drawing installation commission for Mayo General Hospital, Castlebar, Co.Mayo, Ireland Reflections Vitreous enamel installation commission for New Medical School, Keele University, Staffordshire University Trust River Rom Vitreous enamel installation commission for Romford Shopping Centre, Brewery Trust and Havering Council One Mile East Mural commission for One Mile East community art project, London Transient Blue Vitreous enamel installation commission for Euston Tower, London

Selected Bibliography & Publications

2019

The Sea is the Limit. Exhibition publication. Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar
The Sea and Mobility in Islamic Art. 8th Hamad bin Khalifa international symposium on Islamic art. Virginia
Commonwealth University in Qatar Symposium publication

'The Sea is the Limit' in Marhaba, Qatar's Premium Desination Guide (29 Oct)

'Art shines a spotlight on migrant issues' Qatar Foundation (11 Nov)

'Hamad bin Khalifa Symposium puts spotlight on diversity of Islamic art' by Shafeeq Alingal, Gulf Times (13 Nov)

'The Story of One Flying Carpet. How the grandfather of Soviet aviation "flew" to London' by Vladislava Zhunina. ZIMA magazine (in Russian) (July 22)

'Inna's Dream' by Russian Art & Culture magazine (Nov 26)

'Varvara Shavrova's presentation 'Inna's Dream', Afisha London magazine (Nov-Dec)

'Painted into a corner..British art responds to the folly of Brexit' by Jonathan Jones, The Guardian (March 1) 2018

10 Years, anniversary publication, Patrick Heide Contemporary Art, London

'Art of Exodus, feature by Yvette Huddleston, the Yorkshire Post Magazine (July 14)

The Sea is the Limit interview for That's TV York (July 20)

The Sea is the Limit exhibition reviewed in The Independent, The Big Issue, Aesthetica Magazine, Platforma, Refugee Week, The Church Times, Fairtrade Week, ArtRabbit, ArtFund, The Yorkie, York Press, York Mix (May-June) 2016

Beijing Radio and Russian Radio interviews from the *Opera* exhibition in Temple Beijing, China 2015

'Border Strangeness and a Fraught Relationships' by Aidan Dunne (July 22)

Interview from the Borders exhibition, Galway Matters, IrishTV (July)

'Borders' exhibition review by Gemma Tipton, ArtForum (July)



Exhibition Caltalogue, Inaugural Chinjiang Chongqing Biennale of Photography and Video Art, Chinjiang Contemporary Art Museum, Chongqing, China

2014

'Across Chinese Cities' exhibition catalogue, and Venice Biennale of Architecture 2014 official Biennale catalogue Summer Exhibition 2014, exhibition catalogue, Royal Academy of Arts, London

'Russian London: Summer Exhibition 2014 at the Royal Academy of Arts', London Interview *Digging with Heaney* interview for ITAR-TASS, Russian news channel network, Beijing (March 12)

2013

'New Irish Landscapes' at Three Shadows Photography Arts Centre, Arts & Culture Review, Beijing, China (March 20) Fotonoviembre 2013, exhibition catalogue, International Biennale of Photography, Santa Cruz de Tenerife (Nov) 'Look into the Windows': Varvara Shavrova at Fotonoviembre 2013', exhibition review by Anastasia Aralova, Icarus magazine Tenerife (Nov)

2012

'The Opera' exhibition at the Gallery of Photography Dublin, review by Gemma Tipton, Arts Review (Feb) 2011

'The Opera' installation at Espacio Cultural El Tanque, Santa Cruz de Tenerife (Nov)

2011

'Windows on the Hutong', exhibition calalogue published by Patrick Heide Contemporary Art, London 2010

'So bad, she is good' by Sheng Taotao, Global Times, Beijing (March 22) 2009

'Capturing decay in Beijing and Mayo' by Aidan Dunne, The Irish Times (July 22)

'From Beijing to Ballycastle' News in Brief, Western People (July 28)

'Temple Bar Square Project' The Ticket, The Irish Times (January)

'Between the Borders' exhibition catalogue published by Morono Kiang Gallery, Los Angeles

'Varvara Shavrova at Morono Kiang Gallery' review by Leah Ollman, Los Angeles Times (February 5)

'Short List: LA's Gallery Shuffle' by Jeannine A. Denholm, 944.com Pics/ Artform (February 2)

'Between the Borders: Exhibition review', THE LA's monthly magazine for the arts (February) 2008

'Map Games: Dynamics of Change' exhibition catalogue published by offiCina, Beijing

'Untouched' photobook published by Timezone8, Beijing

IntrudeArt (Issue 04 2008) published by Zengdai MOMA, Shanghai

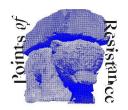
RTE News, TV interview, (July)

'Through a Chinese Lens' by Clifford Coonan, The Irish Times Weekend Review (April 5)

'Untouched' exhibition review, Time Out Beijing (March)

'Surprising similaritie's by He Jianwei, Beijing Today, Center stage (March 21)

www.points-of-resistance.org



'Tales of the City' Interview for Beijing Radio 774 2007

Varvara Shavrova 'Borders', Time Out St.Petresburg, exhibition review (May 18-31)

Varvara Shavrova 'Borders', newspaper catalogue, published by Agey Tomesh, Moscow, Russia