

## The French focus on China, 1844 – 2014

Can we tell this story from the perspective of these French innumerable soldiers, diplomats, missionaries, or single travelers who have tried for over a century and a half to translate their fascination with China and the Chinese in photographs .

It is this story, through some famous examples, and other less known, that propose to do this exhibition. We start with the first known images made in China ten years after the invention of the process by Daguerre to finish today. It's certainly no longer the same China, but the fascination remains the same.

Few are those nowadays who have not traveled in China and published some pictures. Therefore the choice is difficult, we will confront some examples, juxtaposing the subjective reportage black and white to images of monumental contemporary architecture, mixing large format color and small black and white prints, scholarly research and spontaneous look, trying to translate into images the perplexity of foreigners confronted to such a huge and spectacular mutation from the closed and secret world of old China to the modern and vibrant world of today.

## 巴黎-北京百年法国摄影聚焦中国，1844-2014

我们要从许许多多的法国士兵、外交官、传教士或是旅行者的视角来讲述这个故事。一个半世纪以来，他们试图用摄影表达对中国和中国人的迷恋之情。

构成这次展览的故事既有著名的事件，也有不为人知的时刻。展示内容从达盖尔发明照相术十年之后在中国拍摄的一些照片开始，直到当代中国。当然，中国早已不是从前的样子，但那种对中国的迷恋依然如故。

当今鲜有未曾到过中国并发表照片的摄影师。因此选择成了一个难题。我们挑选的样本拼贴了黑白摄影的专题报道摄影和标志性的当代建筑，既有大尺寸彩色照片，也有黑白照片，既有学术研究式的作品，也有惊鸿一瞥的抓拍。这一切充分展现了外国人面对中国从一个封闭神秘的世界到一个充满活力的现代化社会的引人瞩目的巨大变迁所感受到的迷惘。