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### **Fantasies of a Disappearing and Reappearing Chinese City**

China's entry into the world of global capitalism comes with massive urban reconstruction projects. In a time span of less than a decade, Beijing has transformed into a fashionable, fast moving and above all ultramodern city that is drenched in the future, where only a few protected *hutongs* and cultural heritage sites like the Forbidden City remind the visitor of history. Artists like Cao Fei and documentary makers like Ou Ning and Bono Lee reflect in their work on the material and social implications of the urban changes. Ou Ning zooms in on Beijing as a disappearing city in *Meishi Street*, and Bobo Lee explores in *Beijing is Coming* the puzzlement that comes with living in a place that is constant flux. Cao Fei explores a utopian Chinese city in her work *RMB City*. In this paper, I will compare these works to analyse the socio-political implications of such urban artistic fantasies.