

Theater & art

GALLERIES

By Cate McQuaid | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT JANUARY 07, 2014



More information:

LANA Z CAPLAN: Peach Blossom Spring

At: Gallery NAGA, 67 Newbury St.,

through Feb. 1. 6172679060, www.gallerynaga.com

Caplan at NAGA

There's nature, and there's hype. Lana Z Caplan examines how the two are played off each other in China in her show at Gallery NAGA. Look at her photo "Tree-Lined." It appears to capture a soothing summer scene, green trees on a mild slope. But there's a seam to the left, an opening, and it becomes clear that the bucolic image is printed on a scrim that hides a construction zone. You can see rubble through the opening.

In her thoughtful three-channel video "The Loveliest Mountain of China," Caplan juxtaposes a painterly image of a mountain with visitors having their pictures taken in front of it, and interviews with people affiliated with the tourism trade there. They spout tripe such as "It's not man-made, it's just nature's gift." That first video reminds us that people have been packaging nature for eons; the last suggests that the more wily and big that packaging becomes, the deeper the schism between humans and the landscape.