



Best in Show

## **Recommendations**

by **R.C. Baker**

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### **Stephen Wilkes: 'China'**

If Simon delves into America's perpetual weirdness, and Chaubin mines Soviet surreality, Wilkes delivers a contemporary China that's all about the Benjamins. His photos of skyscrapers rising like rockets out of weedy vacant lots and rows of regimented workers manning gleaming assembly lines capture both the giddiness and grind of nascent capitalism. Often his lens finds a lone worker looking up from her task or a solitary figure leaning over the railing of a soaring, spiral atrium, existential quirks amid the regimentation. A fascinating shot of the jagged Guilin Mountains features a tiny, long-stemmed plant in the foreground, a fragile *repoussoir* standing in for an environment under siege. *Clamp Art, 521-531 W 25th, 646-230-0020. Through May 12.*