

Fig.111 Screenshot of the first head-shots I took of two Chinese people. The oval masking I use in the layout of the panels is like a billboard inviting people to put their heads through it. Asian people in particular seem to perfectly fit such an ovality. Also the disposition of the faces in a vertical fashion resembles Asian banners.

## PEOPLE 03

I initially started the project by making a painted portrait of my new acquaintances. I did so also to vary the kind of technique I adopted for this work in relation to the others. While living in Shanghai I consulted an American neighbor who ran a gallery there. The latter found my work too brainy but really enjoyed the drawings. The painted portraits however were not of his like and I from that moment on switched to photography. The first photographs then were taken of the Chinese people I met. Their faces fully filled the oval mask that I use when extracting the background of each head-shot. Living in North America and later in Europe I had more troubles fitting the longer Caucasian faces in such oval templates. Beside being a hairdresser then I also became a plastic surgeon digitally removing those facial features that made it outside the oval mask. Later when it became fashionable to be a hipster I also had to deal with excessive beards and hairs which I have always managed to cut out. Generally speaking it is not so much the style a person adopts that is so telling in his or her portraits but his or her gaze towards me, the photographer and subsequently towards the viewers of this work. Purposely in this work the faces are just faces and there are barely any other traces of the uniforms they wear.