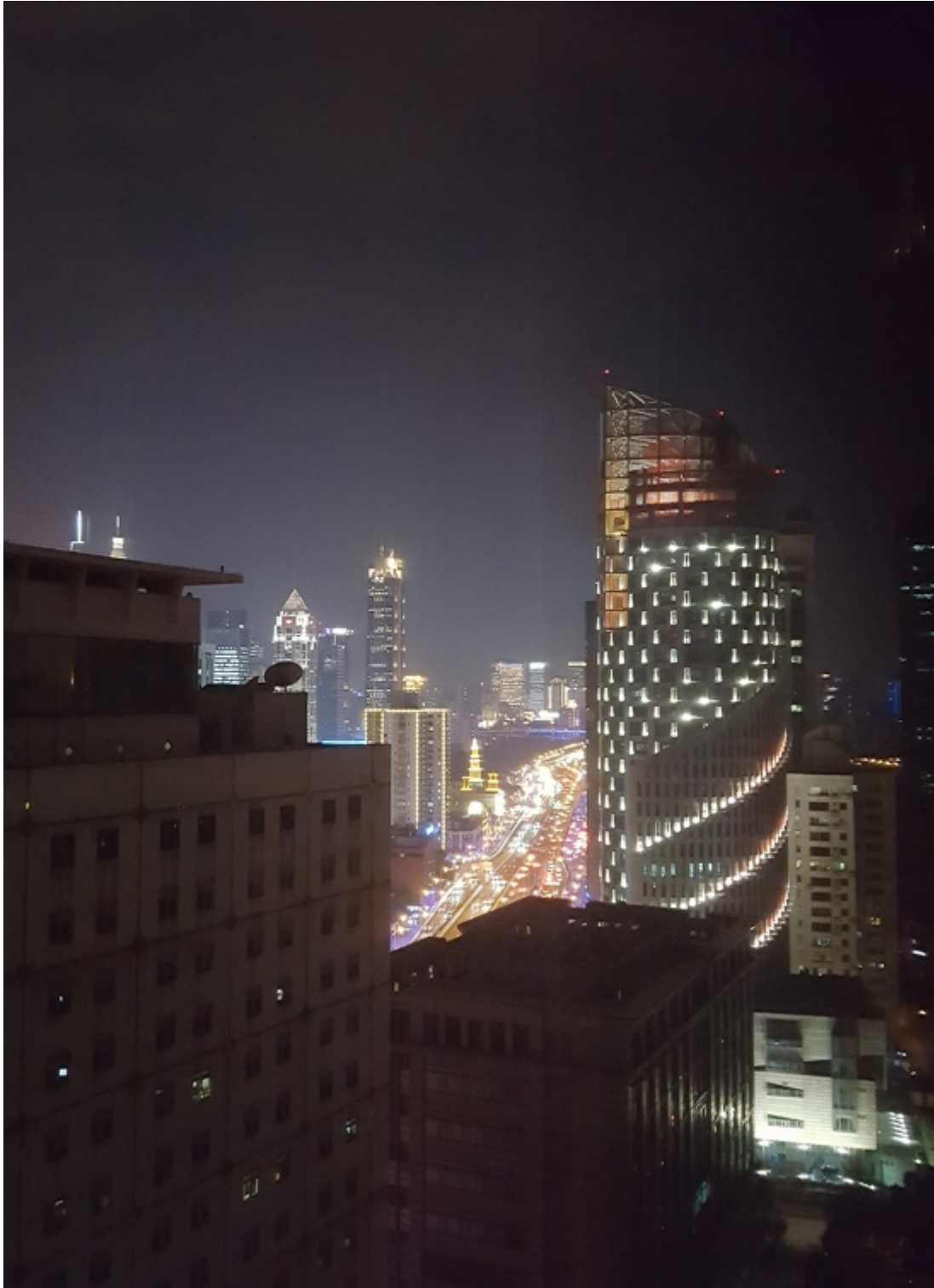


Welcome to Shanghai

*Friday, March 17th - Saturday, March 18th*

We arrived at Pudong airport Friday afternoon, were fingerprinted and photographed through customs (as is everyone, besides the potential language barrier it's actually a less intimidating process than going through US customs) and, having not done any research before hand, gamely joined the big queue to get a taxi. Shortly thereafter were in a totally insane, hour long taxi ride into Shanghai. It turns out you can take the train in, and that's a way better option. Christy had warned me about crazy taxi drivers and it was a fun (although expensive) start to Shanghai. It's possible his car was broken and the gas pedal only had full throttle or none; I did not think we'd see triple digit speeds given it was rush hour in Shanghai, but he managed!

Welcome to Shanghai



*Shanghai from our hotel room.*

Welcome to Shanghai

We strolled around a bit that evening, heading half a dozen blocks away to the famous East Nanjing Road section of town.



*East Nanjing Road*

Welcome to Shanghai



*Those dots on the bottom are heads from the crowds of people.*

This is a busy shopping area; high end clothing and electronics have taken over so few of the old snack shops and food malls remain, but there are still some.



Welcome to Shanghai



*East Nanjing Road*

It's a fun place to walk around and we happened upon a shop that served Christy friendly breakfast so returned with some frequency.

Welcome to Shanghai



*I continued to eat whatever vegetarian items we could spot, something fried in this case.*

On Saturday we walked to another famous area: The Bund.



Welcome to Shanghai



*View from the waterfront.*

The Bund is an area bordering the Huangpu River with a large pedestrian walkway. We saw multiple couples in full wedding dress having photos taken, and across the river it's easy to spot the The Pearl (the tower with the spheres in it).



*"The road 'tour guide' can't believe. Beware of consumption trap."*



Welcome to Shanghai



*I loved watching industrial old ships clank up the river with the financial district gleaming behind.*

Welcome to Shanghai



*Shanghai from the roof of the Rockbund Art Museum.*

Construction is everywhere. As we rode into the city we watched fields of construction cranes erecting new high rises. Buildings are torn down blocks at a time allowing for giant



Welcome to Shanghai

projects to replace less efficient 2-5 story tall complexes.





Welcome to Shanghai

*Looking Up at the Rockbund Art Musuem.*

Reflective ceiling and walls from Song Dong's exhibit, "I Don't Know the Mandate of Heaven" which had taken over the entire Rockbund. It was a great exhibit, including years of the artist's work, and filled up several stories of museum space. They even let him decorate the museum shop (pictured).

Welcome to Shanghai



*You know what we ate a LOT of in Shanghai? Pineapple fried rice.*

This was a tasty cafe where the owner regaled us with tales of his travels and loudly exclaimed his issues with the current government. The last part made me distinctly uncomfortable. Not because of his words directly, but more the possible danger that hearing those words could put us in. Free speech: not something we should take for granted.



Welcome to Shanghai



*I have had this same dream so seeing it in real life was fun. Work by Xie Aige at the Chun Art Museum.*

Welcome to Shanghai

Lots of great art galleries in Shanghai!



Welcome to Shanghai

*The Long Reach of the Chun Art Musuem. I really like this piece.*

We spent the day walking all over and then wandered around trying to find a place that had food we could eat. Eventually we ended up in the Zoo Cafe.



Welcome to Shanghai



*Fruit pizza? Seemed a bit odd, and the staff clearly thought so too. Was actually pretty good!*

Welcome to Shanghai



*Christy gamely goes along with my insistence that we need a selfie by the bear. We ate dinner at a table under his outstretched, hugging arms. Maybe also my idea. She puts up with a lot.*

An exhausting and great first day in this massive, awesome city.