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Double Take

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October 30, 2009 in [Photo](#) by [jwasserstrom](#) | [Permalink](#)



I took this photograph in Hanoi last summer, during my first trip to Vietnam, a brief but memorable one, the main purpose of which was to give lectures about the *Journal of Asian Studies* and the nature of scholarly publishing in the West. Many things I saw there made me think of China (either as it is today or as it was a decade or two ago), including this store. When I first took the photograph, I was reminded of a [Danwei post](#) I had seen a few months earlier that featured a May 4th commemorative graphic (from the Chinese edition of Esquire) that included a striking image of four heroes of the New Culture Movement filling in for John, Paul, George, and Ringo on a walk across Abbey Road. Now, after having checked out ["Art Factory,"](#) the audio slide show featuring Peter Hessler's insightful comments about and Mark Leung's superb photographs of the export art market in Lishui, it brings China to mind in a totally different way.